

NEWSROUNDS

April 2009
Volume 48, Number 2

Rush University Medical Center

RUSH MOVES CLOSER TO REALIZING EPIC GOAL

Rush moved closer to the goal of "one patient, one record" in March with the implementation of the final wave of Epic phase II.

A major part of this wave, which took place March 22, was the clinical documentation go-live. Now that it's taken place, clinicians are able to document patient information at the bedside in real time, making patient progress notes and other clinical information immediately available and accessible to other clinicians at multiple locations. The implementation includes the following highlights:

- Physicians are able to electronically record notes about patient progress, history and physicals, and consultations.
- Nursing documents patient assessment and interventions directly into Epic.
- Hospital service departments document notes and flow sheets into Epic.



The Medical Center's senior clinical leaders take part in Epic training. Front row (seated, left to right): Thomas Deutsch, MD, provost, Rush University, dean, Rush Medical College; and Joshua Jacobs, MD, director, Orthopedic Residency Program. Middle row (left to right): Lisa Dykstra, associate vice president, Information Services; and Allison Weathers, MD, neurology administration. Back row: John Polley, MD, chairperson, plastic and reconstructive surgery.

In addition, this phase will expand health information management scanning and chart deficiency tracking.

Go-Live a Success

According to Susan Huerta, RN, associate vice president, patient safety and clinical effectiveness; and co-chair of the

clinical documentation committee, the Epic go-live was a success in large part because of the up-front work that took place between countless departments and teams long before go-live.

"From the beginning, we utilized a multidisciplinary approach, working with

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staff from across the Medical Center, all of whom were involved in every aspect of the project, from the design stage to implementation," notes Huerta.

Talking to staff after the go-live affirmed her notion that the hard work paid off. Overall, what she's been hearing most often from staff since the go-live is, "It works for us." For Huerta, those simple words say it all.

Benefits of an Electronic Record

In addition to enabling clinicians to capture and analyze real-time data, using electronic medical records will make it quicker and easier for every staff member who works with medical records to view and document patient information while also increasing patient safety and quality of care.

"Once again, thanks to the dedication and collaboration of employees across Rush, the Epic implementation is on track and ready to take us one step closer to a paperless, electronic health record," says Lisa Dykstra, associate vice president, Information Services. •

For more information about Epic, go to rushportal.rush.edu.

NEWSROUNDS INTERVIEW: ALICIA SMITH TALKS ABOUT THE PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Bob Clapp, Rush senior vice president for hospital affairs in the Medical Center and executive director of the hospital, was impressed while taking Alicia Smith, MHA, on a tour of the Medical Center when she wandered away from him to have conversations with a nursing unit director and environmental services director in the inpatient unit they were visiting.

"I was interviewing her, and she wanted to reach out to the people she'd be working with," Clapp recalls. "That's the type of thing she's continued to do since she started working here. She listens to people and looks them

in the eye, and she communicates clearly in a personal manner. That's what we should have in a leader at any level at Rush."

As Rush's new assistant vice president of hospital operations, Smith oversees more than a half dozen departments and units that are essential to Rush's smooth operation and which are responsible for the majority of patient contacts with Rush staff.

Smith came to Rush from Methodist University Hospital in Memphis, Tenn., where she most recently was director of operations, evaluating the medical center's



Alicia Smith (left) visits with Mercedes Matlock, transport services, during one of Smith's rounds.

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ALICIA SMITH

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operations and the development of new service lines and clinical programs; managing major campus renovation projects; overseeing the hospital's environmental, mail and food services, the hospital-based physician practice, the unit managers department and the clinical research center; and providing contact management of a hospital retail operation.

NewsRounds recently spoke with Smith about the role of hospital operations support services at Rush and her goals for the future.

NewsRounds: You'd been at Methodist University Hospital for seven years and advanced to a high level there. Leaving it behind to move to Chicago and to work for Rush was a big change. What made you want to do it?

Smith: Rush has a prestigious reputation that extends beyond the Chicago area. It's nationally known, and I certainly was aware of it when I was at Methodist. The opportunity to work for an institution of Rush's stature and to be a part of an evolving culture here at the Medical Center was very attractive. I was looking for a place that was forward-thinking, and Rush is not only building a new hospital, it's building one of the most technologically advanced hospitals in the world.

NewsRounds: Talk about the role of hospital operations support services at the Medical Center. How do services such as housekeeping and food and nutrition make a difference in patient care?

"The best way hospitals can build loyalty is through the patient experience, the treatment patients receive from everyone they come into contact with."

Smith: A patient may not be able to evaluate the quality of the medical care he or she is receiving, but everyone is able to judge what they can see, what they can taste and what they can smell. They're able to say if the bathroom is clean; if the food is appealing and nutritious; if they're able to adjust the lights and temperature in their room; or if the transport staff member is pleasant while taking them from one room to another.

All those things affect the patient experience, so it's important to get them right. The best way hospitals can build loyalty is through the patient experience, the treatment patients receive from everyone they come into contact with. Each one of the areas I supervise touches the patient more times in a day than some of the medical care providers the patient has. Regardless of their job, everyone can have a positive impact on our patients by being compassionate, professional and sensitive to our patients' needs.

NewsRounds: What are your goals for hospital operations support services? What do you want to accomplish here?

Smith: I want the departments in my division to become more strategic. For example, I would like for them to find more and better ways to partner with clinical teams in order to provide excellent patient care, whether it's the equip-

ment we use to provide a service or the training we provide for our staff.

I'm also trying to develop more systematic processes so that, for example, the way we clean and the standards for how we clean will be consistent regardless of who does it or where. We want to be the best and develop best practices, so that we're the training ground for transport, for laundry, for guest relations, etc.

NewsRounds: How will the Rush Transformation affect hospital operations support services? What will you have to do to support the new East Tower and the other new facilities that are being built on campus?

Smith: We have to prepare for the new hospital coming online, and at the same time we have to maintain the existing hospital buildings and the rest of the facilities that will still be here.

Part of my responsibility is to make sure everyone is cross-trained and able to cover the old facilities as well as the new facilities. The upkeep of all of the facilities is going to be essential.

NewsRounds: Obviously, you have to rely on your managers and the floor staff to accomplish everything you're describing. How do you guide and motivate them to do their jobs well?

Smith: You have to lead by example, and you have to make sure that you're visible. I round as often as I can. The floor staff probably are surprised how much I've been out there. I believe in being visible to team members, understanding where there are barriers that need to be removed. I have an open-door policy, and I have town hall meetings with my staff. If you've done something above and beyond, I will recognize you in front of the group.

NewsRounds: You had to take on a lot in a short period of time. Now that you've been at Rush a while, what's your reaction to the Medical Center?

Smith: I'm elated to be at Rush. It's a warm atmosphere. To be able to see your ideas come to fruition and to work with others who also have high ideals is extremely rewarding. The team that Larry [Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO] and Peter [Butler, Rush COO] and Bob [Clapp] have put together is doing great things. When you find something like that, you want to be a part of it. •

The patient service areas Alicia Smith oversees include the following:

Administration On-Call
Department of Food and Nutrition Services
Environmental Services
Hospital Guest Relations Department
Hospital Transport Services
Medical Center Engineering
Occupational Safety Department
Office of Radiation Safety
Religion, Health and Human Values

NEWSROUNDS

April 2009

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Please note: All physicians featured in this publication are on the medical staff of Rush University Medical Center. Some of the physicians are in private practice and, as independent practitioners, are not employees or agents of Rush University Medical Center.



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I CARE | recycle

WHERE DOES RUSH RECYCLING GO?

Since Rush's recycling program began last spring, the Medical Center has recycled approximately 600 tons of waste, saving 1,875 cubic yards of landfill space. In addition, more than 90 percent of construction waste has been recycled. Rush's recycling committee got a behind-the-scenes look at where the Medical Center's recycled material goes when the group visited Allied Waste Service's reclamation facility on Chicago's South Side in the fall. The facility processes 3,000 tons of waste a month from all over the city, operating 24 hours a day, six days a week.

The recycling process is relatively simple. Trucks unload waste on the ground, which is then sorted into what are referred to as commodities — paper, metal, plastic, cardboard and trash. Workers sort the loads further, looking for any contamination within their particular commodity. Allied's employees process the loads into bales which they then ship away. Cardboard, which can be recycled up to four times, can be shipped as far away as China for reuse. Items that can't be recycled are sent to landfills.

According to the facility's manager, the most important thing Rush employees, students, patients and visitors can do to help recycling efforts is to keep Rush's recyclables separate and clean. "Just a little bit of contamination, meaning trash, liquids, medical waste, etc., can ruin an entire load of recyclable items," says Kevin Krus, Allied Waste recycling manager. "That's why we ask that everyone please make sure their glass and plastic containers, as well as cans, are empty before placing them in the proper bin."

In other recycling news, people have asked if the Triangle Office Building (TOB) recycles. Although there are no individual recycling kiosks at the TOB and all its waste goes into one dumpster, the garbage still is sorted at the Allied

Waste reclamation facility. The Medical Center recycles 80 percent of the TOB waste. Again, it's important to rinse out all plastic, glass and metal containers before throwing them away to help make this program work.

As announced when the recycling program began, the program is being implemented in phases. Currently, there are more than 30 recycling kiosks placed throughout the campus in public walkway areas.

"We have applied for a state recycling grant, which if awarded to Rush will help fund additional recycling containers for the Medical Center," says Mary B. Gregoire, PhD, RD, director, food and nutrition services. "While the current economic crisis continues, we believe it is especially important to move forward with Rush's recycling efforts. Not only is recycling good for the environment, it also saves Rush thousands of dollars a month in waste disposal. It's a win-win for everyone involved."

"We'd like to thank everyone for participating in the program and helping make Rush more environmentally sustainable," Gregoire adds. •

For more information about Rush's recycling program, please visit the Rush intranet at <http://iris.rush.edu/osd/recycling.html>. Do you have suggestions about recycling? Or are you interesting in joining the recycling committee? Send an e-mail to rush_recycles@rush.edu.



Rush's recycling committee visits Allied Waste Service's reclamation facility on Chicago's South Side to learn what happens to Rush's recyclables once they leave the Medical Center.



A "bale" of recycled cardboard can be shipped as far away as China for reuse.

RUSH'S RECYCLING PROGRAM IS EASY TO USE

Rush's recycling bins are color-coded or marked with identifying signs:

- **BLUE** containers for paper (including newspapers, envelopes and magazines)

Rush is recycling cardboard as well. Nonwaxed cardboard boxes that do not contain food residue can be broken down and left by the paper recycling bins. Small paperboard boxes can be placed in the paper recycling bins.

- **GREEN** for glass, #1 and #2 plastics, and cans
- **BLACK** or **GRAY** for food waste and other nonrecyclable trash



Every quarter, Rush employees are recognized for going above and beyond for patients, families, visitors and coworkers. These employees are shining examples of the Rush I CARE core values (innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect and excellence). Here are the winners of Rush's awards for the third quarter of fiscal year 2008.

Employee of the Quarter

Joel Frens, RN, a staff nurse in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU) at Rush for more than five years, regularly offers great ideas to improve efficiency and productivity, promote quality and resolve problems on the unit. Frens diligently cares for his patients and still managed to find time to coordinate a surprise visit from the Michigan State University mascot, "Spartan," for one of his patients. "He went the extra mile to help his patient, Greg, who gave the unit a gold star satisfaction score," says Donna Stel, RN, registered nurse, SICU. "His quality of care consistently exceeds expectations, and he is an excellent patient advocate. Teaching the patients and their families is his top priority."

Manager of the Quarter

Mary Jane Tully, RN, BSN, nursing unit director, SICU, has worked at Rush for more than 30 years. Both her compassion and her contributions toward improvement are inspiring. She collaborated with Lisa Boudreau, RN, MSN, clinical nurse specialist, wound ostomy continence consultation service, to create a team to decrease skin ulcer prevalence from 37 to 0 percent in a year's time. (This rate compares to an average of 15 percent in a national database of nursing quality indicators). The unit also has achieved a significant decrease in hospital-acquired infections. In fact, the unit has not had any bloodstream infections since February, 2008. "Mary Jane's support has been instrumental toward decreasing hospital-acquired infections. More than just a manager, she is a visionary leader who promotes high quality patient care while supporting her staff. She is highly deserving of this prestigious award," says Melissa Browning, RN, clinical nurse specialist, SICU.

Team of the Quarter

The Department of Radiology hypoglycemia safety team focused on the goal of improving patient safety for diabetic patients receiving radiology services. Because diabetic patients are at risk of hypoglycemia while undergoing a radiology test, the team taught all radiology technicians the signs and symptoms of hypoglycemia as well as techniques for testing and treating this condition. Thanks to the team, the training now is complete and glucometers to test blood sugar levels are being installed. "Everyone on the team has shown their commitment to providing quality and safe patient care. They have worked tirelessly to put the needs and safety of our patients first," says Laura Vaught, RN, stroke program coordinator, Department of Neurology.

Patient Satisfaction "Star"

Every quarter, an employee whose name appears in two or more favorable patient evaluations is awarded the patient satisfaction "star" award. This quarter, five stars were honored: Edna Carr, Rush University Medical Group (RUMG) clinic coordinator, geriatrics; Bevis Clark, administrator, surgical science services; Julia Cunningham, RUMG clinic coordinator; Audrey Dean, patient relations consultant; and Sarah McCaffery, RN, part-time nurse on 9 Kellogg, surgical oncology unit. Some patient comments included:

- "Edna is outstanding on the phone and in handling the office and patients. Edna is one of the best secretaries I have encountered. She is very pleasant and very helpful."
- "Bevis Clark was very nice and reassuring to my son and me. He is very patient- and family-friendly. I felt everyone went above and beyond my expectations. Thank you."
- "Julia was helpful, cheerful and amazing before, during and after my surgery. She went above and beyond her duties and made sure I got what I needed!"
- "I would like to send my thanks to Audrey in patient relations, who was able to help me with a billing problem."

- "Sarah is a true healer. While the surgery and antibiotics would surely cure me, I believe Sarah's care and support are what really helped me to heal."

Carol Stege Award for Environmental Services

Environmental specialists Willie Fells and Matias Gomez, recipients of the third quarter Stege Award, worked to restore the terazzo stone on the ground floor of the Professional Office Building for less than half of what a private contractor would have cost. These talented floor care experts performed extensive work to restore the floor within three weeks' time, and now are trained to care for the terazzo stone that will be on many floors throughout the new East Tower.

Rush Values Award Winners

A lost engagement ring was returned to its rightful owner thanks to Richard Brown, environmental specialist in nightshift housekeeping. Lindsay Denicola, MD, an ob/gyn resident, lost her engagement ring after she tied it to her scrub pants while rushing from one patient to another. Brown found the ring after moving an x-ray machine in the hallway by the elevator. "I am blessed in my good fortune having a man like this working during my time of need," Denicola says. "He is beyond exceptional, and his good deed needs to be made public. We would be lucky to have more people like this working in our facility and living in our world."

Aimee Kosinski, RN, registered nurse, operating room (OR), took on the task of finding innovative ways to improve the standard of care for ophthalmology patients. She worked closely with nurses and surgeons to make necessary improvements to reduce costs while ensuring excellent care for every patient. She also is involved in teaching new nurses. Kosinski has strived to reduce the complexity of procedures to make them easier to teach to less experienced nurses. "Aimee's essence embodies all of the Rush I CARE core values: innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect and excellence. She truly demonstrates her value to Rush University Medical Center and the operating room," Caroline Kunz, RN, nurse clinician, OR.

Angela Moss, MSN, RN, instructor in the adult health and gerontological nursing department, College of Nursing, went above and beyond to ensure that her clinical students had the best possible learning experience throughout the quarter. She demonstrated innovation by piloting a student exchange program with Claire Jones, MSN, RN, College of Nursing instructor, that enabled students to expand upon their clinical experience by rotating on two clinical floors each for a day. She also assisted them in preparing for job placement by helping them develop their resumes. Each day, she challenged her students to step beyond their comfort zones. "I have never encountered a nursing instructor who worked as diligently for her students as Angela. She is an excellent role model, demonstrating what a clinical instructor should be," says Rebekah Gaffin, RN, teaching assistant and float nurse, nursing therapeutic lab and supplemental staffing office. "Working closely with her these past several months, I have been a witness to her exemplary leadership and teaching skills."

While leaving work one day, Guadalupe Ordaz-Nielsen, RN, supplemental staffing adult critical care float pool, noticed staff members in need of help treating a patient who had suffered a gunshot wound to the head. Ordaz-Nielsen immediately did everything she could to help doctors and the other nurses save the patient's life. "She saw a dire situation and without thinking helped out our unit and this patient," says Laura Zuckerman, RN, weekend nurse, Neurosurgery Intensive Care Unit. "She freely and consistently offers to help others and walks the unit when she has downtime to see who might need help to save us time. This obviously translates into better patient care and, ultimately, better patient outcomes."

Arline Wilson, research assistant, preventive medicine, volunteered without hesitation to take on a heavy load of chart reviews, more than 80 follow-up phone calls and mailings, numerous source document requests and extensive contact information searches for "lost-to-follow-up" study participants, who can no longer be located



3rd Quarter Employee Awards

because of address changes, disconnected phones, etc. She also assisted with a research program that had nearly 400 participants. Despite her own full workload, Wilson was committed to helping in any way needed until all the necessary work was done. Her breadth of knowledge was invaluable to the department. "We certainly would not have been so thoroughly prepared for the program and well-organized without her help," says Barb Mascitti, finance manager, preventive medicine. •

To nominate someone for a quarterly award, call Clare Quinn at ext. 2-3641.



Mary Jane Tully, RN, BSN



Willie Fells



Aimee Kosinski, RN



Angela Moss, MSN, RN



Guadalupe Ordaz-Nielsen, RN



Arline Wilson



The Department of Radiology hypoglycemia safety team (left to right): Bernie Peculis, Laura Vaught, RN, Erin Wysong, Sandra Donaldson, RN, Carmela Gonzalez, RDMS. Not pictured: David Turner, MD.



Left to right: Audrey Dean, Edna Carr, Sarah McCaffrey, RN, Julia Cunningham and Bevis Clark.

NEW HEALTHY HIP PROGRAM OFFERS RELIEF TO YOUNG PEOPLE WITH JOINT PAIN

Program Helps a 27-Year-Old Patient Return to Work after Years of Hip Pain

During infancy, Steve*, a 27-year-old plumber, suffered a serious infection that led to a malformation of his hip joint. The condition caused him pain throughout his life, and by early adulthood it had reached a point where it threatened his ability to work.

Steve sought help from a number of physicians, but couldn't find a solution. Eventually, he came to the new Healthy Hip Program at Rush, where physicians developed a strategy to surgically correct the hip deformity, enabling him to resume work.

Hip pain and joint problems typically are thought of as the health concerns of older adults, but younger adults such as Steve also suffer from these conditions due to injuries or disorders. Traditionally, hip pain treatment for children and young adults involved little more than recommendations to moderate activity and a prescription of anti-inflammatory medicines and painkillers. Hip replacement is not an optimal treatment for younger patients because of the activity restrictions it causes and the limited lifespan of the artificial joint. A young patient who gets a hip replacement would likely need multiple hip surgeries over the course of his or her lifetime.

Orthopedic physicians at Rush recently launched the Healthy Hip Program, to address hip pain in children and young adults. The program's goal is to preserve the

hip and help patients return to a full, active life. It offers alternatives to hip replacement for younger patients who suffer from chronic hip pain. The program includes the following physicians: Charles Bush-Joseph, MD, orthopedic surgeon; Jorge O. Galante, MD, orthopedic surgeon; Walter Virkus, MD, orthopedic oncologist; and Monica Kogan, MD, pediatric orthopedic surgeon.

"One of the benefits of having a healthy hip program for younger patients is being able to diagnose and treat these problems at an early age, which may help patients avoid or postpone total hip replacement in the future," Virkus says.

At the onset of joint disease, pain typically occurs during or just after physical activity. The pain can manifest itself in many areas, including the location of the problem, in the groin or above the hip, causing lower back pain. Over time, the condition can worsen or cause damage to connecting joints and tissue, and the

pain can become more frequent, reaching the point at which a person may have hip pain even when at rest.

"Some deformities cause abnormal contact between the hip and joints during motion that creates severe pain. The problem usually becomes evident in young adults and often can go undiagnosed for years. Now we can correct the problem and reduce or eliminate the pain," Kogan says.

New options for diagnosing and treating individuals with recurring and deteriorating hip conditions include the following procedures:

- Hip arthroscopy is a minimally invasive outpatient procedure that repairs torn hip cartilage and removes bone spurs — problems that once required open invasive surgery. Often used to treat sports injuries, it allows for faster recovery times and return to activity.
- A surgical procedure called periacetabular osteotomy is used to treat malformed hip sockets, which often lead to early arthritis. It repositions the hip socket to cover the top of the thigh bone in a more stable position, preventing further arthritis from developing and reducing pain.
- In cases in which a patient's femur is too large for the hip socket, a condition that causes



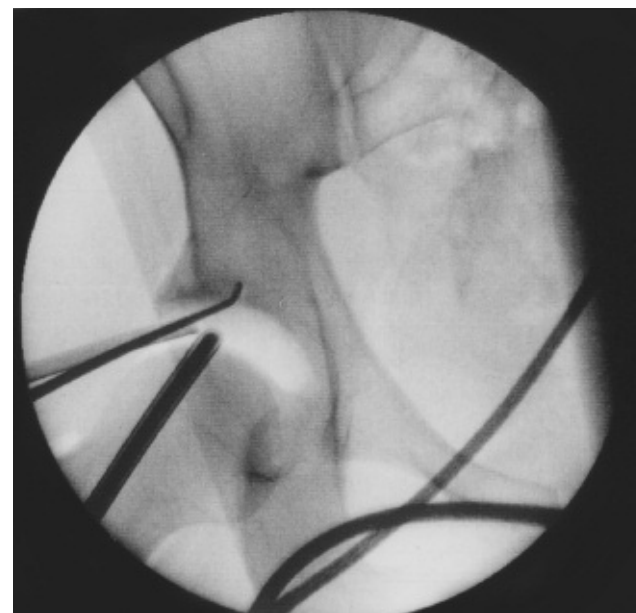
Walter Virkus, MD

extreme pain, osteoplasty (also known as femoral head reshaping) reshapes the femoral head to improve the range of motion and reduce unwanted contact in the hip joint and the pain that accompanies it.

"While the methods vary, all these procedures give patients an alternative to hip replacement surgery that will result in fewer restrictions in movement and fewer complications," Bush-Joseph says. "The skilled team of surgeons in the Healthy Hip Program can assess each patient and recommend the best possible approach."

For more information about the Healthy Hip Program or to make an appointment, call (888) 352-RUSH (7874).

*Not his real name.



During arthroscopy, the hip is injected with air (left) to allow a working space for the arthroscope and instruments (right).

NEW MARITAL AND SEX THERAPY PROGRAM HELPS STRENGTHEN COUPLES

Ann Hartlage, PhD, has a way of asking questions that invite a response. Even as she makes introductory small talk with a visitor to her office in the Rush West Campus building at 2150 W. Harrison St., Hartlage conveys a sense of being genuinely receptive and interested.

“I like people,” Hartlage says. “There’s virtually never a person who I don’t like.”

That open, accepting demeanor is an important part of Hartlage’s work as director of the new Marital and Sex Therapy Program at Rush. Broad in scope, the program offers therapy for couples (married or unmarried) dealing with relationship and/or sexual problems as well as those dealing with problems related to adult children.

Since the program was established last July, Hartlage, a licensed clinical psychologist, has counseled couples dealing with adultery and sexual dysfunction, as well as less traumatic but still challenging parenting and communication issues such as how to discipline children constructively and how to argue without resorting to name-calling.

As an assistant professor in the departments of psychiatry and behavioral sciences since 1994, Hartlage has focused mainly on research but also has conducted individual and couples counseling. She brings to the program both specialized training in the treatment of sexual dysfunction and her own experiences as a widow with three children and eight young grandchildren.

“You have to be able to relate to the people you’re talking to,” she

says. “Maybe I haven’t had the specific experience they do, but usually I still can draw on something in my own life that helps me understand how they feel.”

Currently, about 20 patients are being seen in the program, a volume that already has Hartlage thinking about adding another therapist. “We didn’t know how well it would go over when we started, and we’ve been quite successful,” she says.

In fact, there was no one at Rush specializing in psychotherapy for marital, couples or sexual problems until the program was established, and physicians at Rush had been referring sex therapy cases to other medical centers. As a result, there also weren’t enough sex therapy cases being treated at Rush for psychiatry residents to meet their educational requirements.

Hartlage sees the majority of the program’s clients herself, and supervises Rush psychiatry residents who also provide counseling. She also collaborates with Sheila Dugan, MD, medical co-director of the Rush Program for Abdominal and Pelvic Health, and Laurence Levine, MD, a urologist at Rush, referring women with pelvic floor disorders and men with erectile dysfunction to them for medical treatment when appropriate and receiving referrals from them to help patients develop strategies for addressing sexual difficulties.

Currently, the program’s clients are split about evenly between couples therapy and sex therapy. In couples therapy, Hartlage emphasizes communication.

“I try to get them to listen to each other,” she says. “A lot of times when a relationship’s not working, couples are formulating their response while their partner is



Ann Hartlage counsels a couple in her office.

speaking. I try to get them to fight fairly, to understand each other’s point of view, to really listen.”

She recently counseled a married couple in their late 20s who were struggling with the aftermath of the husband’s affair with another woman. During the course of retracing the couple’s relationship, they realized that poor communication had prevented them from resolving problems in the relationship that kept resurfacing as a result. That understanding reduced the tension in the relationship, enabling the couple to talk about the affair — which at first was too painful for them to discuss — and commit to staying together and making the relationship work.

For couples seeking therapy for sexual difficulties, Hartlage emphasizes education. “There are a lot of myths about sex and what’s normal, and if people believe those myths and have unrealistic expectations, that can lead to a sexual problem that doesn’t have to do with the relationship,” she says.

Hartlage begins counseling by working with the couples — who tend to be in their 30s and 40s — to help them adjust their attitudes about sex and become more comfortable.

Whether she’s providing therapy for relationship problems or sexual difficulties, Hartlage’s goal remains the same: to foster mentally healthy couples. In both cases,

she works toward that goal by focusing on both partners as parts of a larger whole.

“You don’t see it as his problem or her problem,” she says. “You see it as a problem with the interaction.”

For more information about the Marital and Sex Therapy Program at Rush, to make an appointment or to refer a patient, call (312) 942-MATE (6283) or e-mail ann_hartlage@rush.edu. (Please do not send confidential information via e-mail.) •

The Marital and Sex Therapy Program at Rush provides the following services:

- Couples therapy
- Marriage counseling
- Premarital counseling
- Counseling for these sexual difficulties:
 - Body image issues
 - Communicating about sex
 - Decreased sexual desire
 - Erectile disorder
 - Female arousal problems
 - Inhibited male or female orgasm
 - Painful intercourse (dyspareunia)
 - Premature ejaculation
 - Spasms of the vagina muscles (vaginismus)
 - Vaginal dryness
 - Other sexual issues that may benefit from counseling

LOOKING BACK AND FORWARD AT THE RUSH TRANSFORMATION

2004

Rush University Medical Center announces plans to invest in the Rush Transformation, a comprehensive construction and facilities renovation program. This investment includes a new hospital building, a new orthopedic ambulatory building, renovations to existing hospital facilities, improved parking and a new central power plant and parking garage.

2005

Trustee John Boler and his wife, Mary Jo, donate \$20 million to the project.

Larry J. Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO (right), accepts a generous gift from John and Mary Jo Boler.



2006

Trustee Marvin Herb and his family donate \$20 million to the transformation project. The Rush Transformation Center opens on first floor of the Atrium Building, providing a preview of what will happen on campus over the next seven years.



The Rush Transformation Center opens on the first floor of the Atrium Building.

JUNE: A kick-off celebration for the transformation takes place on Rush's campus at the future site of the new hospital. Guests, including Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley, are treated to a look back at Rush history, as well as a virtual tour of the Rush of tomorrow.



Rush staff members eat lunch and listen to a presentation about the Rush Transformation during the kick-off celebration.

JUNE: Rush receives board approval for a Certificate of Need to proceed with detailed planning for the campus project.

DECEMBER: Work finishes on the schematic design phase of the project, which evaluates the layout of various departments and floors with regard to the arrangement of rooms and traffic flow for patients, staff and visitors.

With construction of all the major new buildings in the Rush Transformation project has progressed in just a few years — and look ahead to how

2007

FEBRUARY: Rush applies for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for its new hospital building. These efforts made Rush the first comprehensive hospital in city of Chicago to seek LEED certification.

The state of Illinois approves Rush's request for a Certificate of Need to build the new orthopedic ambulatory building. The state-of-the-art building will consolidate outpatient offices and facilities of Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush and many Department of Orthopedic Surgery functions.

JULY: Rush clinicians, faculty and staff gather to celebrate the groundbreaking of the new orthopedic ambulatory building.

JULY: The Jelke building exterior renovations are completed early in 2008.



Jelke gets a much-needed facelift.

SEPTEMBER: The Rush West Campus building opens, providing a new home for the Laurance Armour Day School — a day school facility for preschool children.



The new Laurance Armour Day School child care facility opens on the Rush West Campus at 2150 W. Harrison St.

ormation under way, it's a good time to look back at how quickly this
w much will be accomplished in the years to come.

2008

JANUARY: Rush Ambulatory Behavioral Medicine Services, the Rush Day Hospital and the Department of Psychiatry Outpatient Clinical Services relocate to the Rush West Campus building.

MARCH: Webcams are installed around campus to show progress of the construction at various sites.

APRIL: The Illinois Clean Energy Foundation awards a grant of \$135,000 to Rush in support of the East Tower's energy efficient design.

SPRING: Construction on the East Tower begins.



Representatives of user groups involved in planning Rush's new patient care facilities celebrate the beginning of construction with a ceremonial groundbreaking. Left to right: Jean Silvestri, MD, neonatology; Angela Moody-Parker, RN, neurosurgical intensive care unit; Bernie Peculis, radiology; Alden Brugada, telecommunications; Mike Wisniewski, engineering; Susan Couch, a Rush patient; and Mary Gregoire, PhD, RD, food and nutrition services.

SEPTEMBER: Groundbreaking for the East Tower, including a week-long series of events.

2009

SUMMER/FALL: Orthopedic Ambulatory Building, new employee parking lot and central power plant scheduled to open.

2012

New hospital facility (East Tower) expected to open.

2015

Atrium and Kellogg building renovations scheduled to be completed.

2016

The oldest buildings on the west end of campus, including the Senn, Rawson, Jones, Murdock and Pavilion buildings, will be demolished in order to create campus green space. Historical fixtures and pieces from the buildings will be removed for display in new facilities and archives.

For more information about Rush's transformation, please visit <http://www.rush.edu/transformation>.



An illustration of Rush's new hospital.

RUSH YOU CARE GRANT HELPS SUPPORT U.S. SOLDIERS OVERSEAS

The impact of Rush's commitment to compassionate caring extends beyond the Medical Center through our community service programs and other initiatives. It extended all the way to the Middle East after the Rush You Care program made a grant in support of the Troop to Troop program run by Boy Scouts of America Troop 117 in Elmhurst, which sends care packages to members of the U.S. armed services stationed overseas.

The You Care program awards grants to nonprofit human services organizations without religious or political affiliation where Rush employees volunteer. Employees may apply for a grant of up to \$1,000 for their organization.



Scout Billy Reichert helps assemble care packages to send to members of the U.S. armed services.

"This grant has helped increase the amount and quality of packages sent to soldiers serving our country overseas," says Suzanne Klinetop, manager of clinical recruitment, who volunteers with Troop 117.

The Troop to Troop program began in January 2004. Among the first beneficiaries of the program was Esko Peterson, manager of community recruitment and technology in human resources at Rush. Peterson also is a Sergeant First Class (SFC)/Illinois Army National Guard who was stationed in Iraq from January 2004 to April 2005.

"Your efforts in support of soldiers like me is greatly appreciated," Peterson wrote in a letter to the troop. "Your gift has put a smile on my face and helps me to remember the good things about being home."

The program has continued to send care packages, which are prepared by Troop 117 members. With help from the You Care grant and other donations, the program has sent 55 packages to approximately 22 soldiers, along with letters from the boy scouts thanking the soldiers for their service to our country. The packages have included toiletries, socks, food items, magazines, sanitary wipes, games, batteries, phone cards, lip balm and more. They also have included bags of small toys, which the soldiers have requested to hand out to children they meet to help build better relationships with people in the countries where they're stationed.

Troop 117 has received many touching letters from the recipients of the packages, and Klinetop has shared their heartfelt thanks with colleagues at Rush. "It makes a huge difference to everyone's morale and spirits when we get something from home," wrote Lieutenant Colonel Stu Goldsmith, commander, 8th Psychological Operations Battalion – Airborne, who is stationed in Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar. "When anyone gets a box, we all share it. Yours was a very generous collection of things that the troops really appreciate. Thank you again for your tremendous kindness."

For more information about the program, visit <http://hrsourceatrush.com> and click on the link for the program on the lefthand side of the page. Or contact Jake Nuber, training and development consultant, Employee and Organizational Development, at ext. 3-2802.

RUSH WATCHES HISTORY-MAKING MOMENT

On Tuesday, Jan. 20, Rush employees, faculty, students and volunteers gathered throughout the Medical Center to watch the inauguration of President Barack Obama. Hundreds came together in the Searle Conference Center to watch the historic moment.

"It was important and moving to be with so many people who were excited and focused on this event of such historic importance," says Francis Fullam, senior director of marketing research and patient relations, who watched the inauguration in the Searle Conference Center. "People were involved at a very personal level. There was a feeling of enthusiasm and hope that this is a president who understands academic medical centers and that he will be good for us and good for the nation as a whole."

At least one member of the Rush community attended the inauguration in person. Jill Gabbert, MS, director of student affairs, Rush University, and her husband, Scott, drove to

Washington and joined the crowd behind the U.S. Capitol Building.

"When we got to the National Mall, I looked behind me toward the Capitol, and it took my breath away," Gabbert remembers. "There was this mass of humanity, and they all were waving their flags and yelling and cheering. It was phenomenal being part of history."

Before becoming president, then U.S. Senate candidate Barack Obama visited Rush (the Searle Conference Center, in fact) on Oct. 28, 2004, to hear directly from Rush clinicians about issues in health care. "The most important thing for everyone here to know is I'm a good listener," he said. "I hope you can take time to teach me."

During Obama's short visit in 2004, he took questions from clinicians at Rush. When Obama was asked about his plans to control costs of drugs for HIV and AIDS patients, he began by saying, "I don't have a magic bullet to solve this problem," but went on to talk about the impact of AIDS on urban areas like Chicago. •



Top: Hundreds gather in the Searle Conference Center to watch the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Middle: Jill Gabbert, MS, director, student affairs, (foreground) awaits the beginning of the inaugural program amid the crowd on the National Mall.

Bottom: Obama, with Cynthia E. Boyd, MD, MBA, associate vice president, chief compliance officer, during his visit to Rush in 2004 for his U.S. Senate run.

RUSH PROFESSOR, RESIDENT IMPART I CARE VALUES DURING GUATEMALAN MISSION

Alberto Lin, MD, chief resident, physical medicine and rehabilitation, and Steve Clar, MD, associate professor, physical medicine and rehabilitation, spent 10 days in October volunteering with two nonprofit organizations, Hearts in Motion and Range of Motion Project, in the Guatemalan town of Zacapa. Along with a team of 49 other volunteers, Lin and Clar provided care for patients suffering from low back pain, anterior cruciate ligament tears, arthritis, rotator cuff tears, rheumatoid arthritis, plantar fasciitis and other conditions. They saw approximately 40 to 50 patients a day during the six days they spent in the clinic. Other team members, including orthopedic surgeons and nurses, performed surgeries such as club foot repairs and amputations. Lin was able to secure medical donations from Bessie Medical Supply, health care company Ortho-McNeil (a division of Ortho-McNeil-Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc.) and Rush's Rehab Associates of Chicago for the mission.

Alberto Lin, MD, with a patient at the clinic in Zacapa, Guatemala.



NEW COMPREHENSIVE CLINIC FOR GASTROINTESTINAL CANCERS PUTS PATIENTS AT CENTER OF COLLABORATIVE CARE

Geraldine Guzaldo almost had given up hope by the time she arrived at Rush. The 52-year-old Elmwood Park resident previously had undergone surgery at another medical center to remove tumors in her colon. When the cancer returned a year later, her doctors misdiagnosed her condition, treating her abdominal pain by prescribing pain pills and removing her gallbladder. Guzaldo switched to a second western suburban hospital, where she underwent surgery to remove tumors in two different sites in her colon, but she was unhappy with her follow-up care.

Finally, Guzaldo sought treatment at the new Coleman Foundation Comprehensive Clinic for Gastrointestinal Cancers at Rush University Medical Center.

"When I walked in, I had five doctors around me," she recalls of her first visit last September. "They explained everything to me, all my surgeries, which nobody had done before. I learned more in my first visit at Rush than I had in the two-and-a-half years I had been at the other hospitals."

"I was at the end of the line," adds Guzaldo, who came to Rush because a friend had been treated at the Medical Center and was happy with her care. "I was throwing my hands up and saying, 'if I'm going to die, I'm going to die.' Going to Rush really gave me hope that I can survive this."

Opened last July, the Coleman Foundation Comprehensive Clinic for Gastrointestinal Cancers is a joint endeavor between the divisions of gastroenterology and hematology/oncology at Rush. It provides a single center for all the care needed by patients who are at risk of or have been diagnosed with gastrointestinal cancers, including tumors of the colon, rectum, pancreas, esophagus, stomach, small intestine, anus, gallbladder, bile ducts and liver. The American Cancer Society estimated that last year



The Coleman Foundation Comprehensive Clinic for Gastrointestinal Cancers physicians confer about patient cases during one of their weekly meetings. Left to right: Shriram Jakate, MD, director of laboratory services, pathology; William T. Leslie, MD, oncology; Gerry Bohac, MD, oncologic surgeon, oncology; and Sohrab Mobarhan, MD, the clinic's director.

there were more than 270,000 new cases of these cancers and more than 135,000 deaths due to cancers of these sites.

Each patient at the center receives the same collaborative team care that Guzaldo experienced, meeting with his or her entire physician team during the first visit to the Medical Center. Before that first visit, the physicians already have reviewed the patient's case during their weekly meeting on the eighth floor of the Professional Office Building.

"We talk to each other and look at the pathology images together, we get all the information, and we determine what is the best approach. Then our team works with each patient to create an individualized treatment plan that offers the latest diagnostic capabilities as well as leading-edge treatment options," says Sohrab Mobarhan, MD, clinic director. "At the end of their first meeting with the team, patients walk away knowing there is a well-defined treatment plan designed to meet their specific needs."

"Patients are empowered, and they're knowledgeable about the direction of their treatment," Mobarhan continues. "When they see an approach that's coordinated, they have a greater level of

trust, their stress goes down, and they're better able to cope with the problem. It's a very respectful and patient-oriented approach."

In all, 21 physicians at Rush are involved in the center, including experts in gastroenterology, medical oncology, surgery, pathology, psychosocial oncology, radiology and radiation oncology, as well as nutrition and genetics.

The center can provide patients with the most advanced diagnostic and treatment services available, including interventional endoscopy, radiological testing, multi-detector CT imaging, positron emission tomography, MRI, image-guided radiotherapy, electron and electron-arc therapy, interstitial brachytherapy and intensity-modulated radiotherapy.

The center's preventive and screening services include colonoscopies to prevent colon and rectal cancer; upper endoscopies to screen for esophageal cancer and Barrett's esophagus; and radiofrequency ablation therapy to prevent esophageal cancer. Genetic counseling, in which family histories are reviewed, and testing are also available to determine an individual's risk for gastrointestinal cancers.

Reflecting the comprehensive nature of the center, a dedicated gastrointestinal cancer nurse is available to answer patient questions and to coordinate all appointments, procedures and tests to ensure patients receive quality care in a timely manner.

"The nurses have been great," says Guzaldo, who began chemotherapy at Rush in September and completed her treatment this January. "From the front desk all the way to the people who give you your blood tests, it's been a great experience for me."

"The care has been wonderful. I don't think I can get better care anywhere else." •

For more information about the clinic, visit www.rush.edu or contact (312) 942-2700.

The Coleman Foundation Comprehensive Clinic for Gastrointestinal Cancers was made possible in part by a \$5 million grant from the Coleman Foundation, a private, Chicago-based foundation that supports organizations providing cancer care. In recognition of the foundation's support, all of Rush University Medical Center's comprehensive cancer programs are named for the Coleman Foundation.

RUSH RECEIVES CHEST PAIN CENTER ACCREDITATION

New Protocols Speed Treatment When Time is Critical

Rush demonstrated once again that it is a leader in health care when it recently became the first academic medical center in Chicago to be accredited as a chest pain center.

Rush received this accreditation from the Society of Chest Pain Centers, a patient-centered professional society based in Columbus, Ohio, that focuses on heart disease and has a mission of educating the public and health care professionals about the importance of rapid diagnosis and treatment of people experiencing chest pain.

“The Medical Center’s accreditation as a chest pain center affirms that when time is of the essence, patients who come to Rush with chest pain can be confident of receiving expert diagnosis and treatment quickly,” says Yanina Purim-Shem-Tov, MD, medical director of the chest pain center and emergency medicine physician. “I congratulate everyone involved for making this accreditation possible and providing such outstanding care for our patients.”

Heart attacks are the leading cause of death in the United States, with 600,000 people dying annually of heart disease, and more than five million Americans visit hospitals each year with chest pain. Recent treatment advances have greatly reduced the incidence of deaths and disability due to heart attack, but successful treatments are time dependent and require rapid initiation.

To earn chest pain center accreditation, Rush implemented processes to reduce the amount of time it takes for a patient experiencing symptoms of a possible heart attack to see a physician, thus reducing the amount of time it takes for a patient to receive care during the critical early stages of a heart attack.

Minutes Can Make the Difference

Whenever a patient arrives at the emergency room with chest pain, the emergency medicine attending pages six catheterization lab team members — including an interventional cardiologist and two additional cardiologists — to the emergency room quickly to initiate treatment. This system, which summons the entire team with just one pager call, is in place 24 hours a day, seven days a week to ensure that patients can receive prompt care at any time.

“Everyone works together in a supportive, respectful team environment to make decisions rapidly,” Purim-Shem-Tov says.

This rapid response system has reduced the time it typically takes from when a patient arrives in the emergency department to when the patient undergoes angioplasty, an artery opening procedure. The American Heart Association recommends that this period — known as “door to balloon time” in reference to the balloon used to open an artery during angioplasty — be less than 90 minutes. Each 30-minute delay in restoring blood flow increases the one-year mortality rate by 7.5 percent. Rush’s average response time is well below the 90-minute target. Since January 2008, more than 90 percent of patients presenting to the Rush emergency department with heart attack have had their blocked artery opened in less than 90 minutes.

“Rush is committed to improving the hospital’s response to heart attack victims. Minutes can make the difference between life and death,” says Gary Schaer, MD, director of the cardiac catheterization lab.

Rush emergency medicine and cardiology faculty and staff also meet once a month to review cases and discuss potential improvements to the chest pain



Yanina Purim-Shem-Tov, MD



Gary Schaer, MD

care process. These meetings also include personnel from the departments of quality improvement, hospital administration and nursing.

Similar collaboration has been part of the chest pain center initiative from the beginning. The accreditation process required close cooperation between Rush’s emergency medicine, cardiology, pharmacy and internal medicine departments and other departments throughout the Medical Center. To coordinate and implement the protocols that led to the chest pain center accreditation, Rush created a

multidisciplinary leadership committee consisting of physicians, nurses, pharmacists, security and environmental services staff and others.

“Receiving chest pain center accreditation is a great accomplishment. It’s a testament to the team of caregivers from across the Medical Center who have been working tirelessly to achieve this important distinction,” says James Calvin, MD, chief of the Section of Cardiology. “Rush strives to be a leader in the treatment of heart attacks in Chicago and the accreditation reflects our commitment to quality care.” •

Four Steps to Speed Cardiac Care

To speed the diagnosis and treatment of heart attack toward the goal of completing angioplasty within 90 minutes of a patient’s arrival, Rush has established the following four-step protocol for chest pain patients:

1. An emergency medicine physician performs and reads an electrocardiogram within 10 minutes of a patient’s arrival.
2. Upon confirming a diagnosis of a heart attack, and within 15 minutes of the patient’s arrival, the physician pages the cardiac catheterization lab team to alert them a patient is coming.
3. The patient receives aspirin and clopidogrel in order to improve blood flow through the obstructed artery.
4. The patient is placed on a portable cardiac monitor and is ready for transport.

MINUTE BY MINUTE: ONE RUSH PATIENT'S HEART ATTACK AND TREATMENT



Ed McDevitt has a special appreciation of the steps Rush has taken to speed care for heart attacks in order to receive accreditation as a chest pain center.

On the Saturday night after Thanksgiving last year, the 68-year-old River Forest resident suffered a heart attack and underwent emergency cardiac catheterization at Rush. McDevitt, a retired consultant and father of two adult children, is receiving follow up care at Rush; has begun an exercise routine; and has resumed singing in four vocal groups, including his church choir and a competitive barbershop chorus. His experience, recounted here, provides an example of how Rush's chest pain treatment protocols work, and the critical difference speedy treatment can make.

10:00 p.m. McDevitt arrives home from a trip to Boston. Having begun experiencing what he first thought to be stomach pain prior to his flight, he skips meeting his wife, Judith, at a party.

"The care was excellent. I was amazed at the protocol. It was so well laid out, so well done, so quickly handled."

10:30 p.m. "The pain had changed. It had gone into my shoulder, and I was thinking 'this is not stomach pain, I don't like what this is,'" McDevitt recalls. He considers calling 911, but doesn't. In hindsight he says, "I won't make that mistake again."

10:45 p.m. Judith arrives home. McDevitt tells her not to bother coming inside. "Let's go to the emergency room," he tells her.

11:01 p.m. McDevitt arrives at the emergency room of Rush Oak Park Hospital.

11:05 p.m. An emergency room nurse takes his blood pressure.

11:10 p.m. An emergency room medical technician performs an electrocardiogram (EKG) on McDevitt. "That's part of the protocol. When you present with chest pain, the first thing we do is take an EKG so we can diagnose the cause of the pain," says Gary Schaer, MD, director of the Rush University Medical Center cardiac catheterization lab. The EKG shows that McDevitt is having a heart attack.

11:20 pm. With one call, the emergency room sends a group page to the cardiac catheterization team on call, which includes an interventional cardiology attending, interventional cardiology fellow, general cardiology fellow, two nurses and an x-ray technician. During

normal hospital hours, team members already are onsite at Rush. "When a page arrives at night or on weekends, they stop whatever they're doing and hurry to the hospital. If they're asleep, they jump out of bed, they put on their pants and they run," says Deb Macey, RN, manager of the Rush University Medical Center cardiac catheterization lab.

Meanwhile, emergency room nurses administer heart attack medication to McDevitt. Joseph Dipiazza, MD, an emergency room physician at Rush Oak Park Hospital, tells McDevitt that he's going to be transferred to the catheterization lab at Rush University Medical Center. "Judith [a family nurse practitioner] was on the phone to our son saying, 'Dad's having a heart attack, and we're going to Rush,'" McDevitt remembers.

11:45 p.m. The catheterization lab team arrives at the Medical Center and begins preparing to treat McDevitt. To receive chest pain center accreditation, Rush must ensure that team members all live within 30 minutes or less of the hospital.

11:55 p.m. An ambulance carrying McDevitt leaves Rush Oak Park Hospital. "I thought, 'this is surreal.' I'm sure everyone who goes through this feels that way," he says.

12:18 a.m. The ambulance arrives at the Rush University Medical Center emergency room. "I can remember being threaded through the walkway and into the ER," McDevitt says. "There was a woman waiting for us, and the paramedic asked her 'where are we going,' and she told him 'just follow me.' She led us through the hospital right to the cath lab."

12:23 a.m. McDevitt is wheeled into the cardiac catheterization lab. "There were half a dozen people standing there," he remembers. "I asked them 'were you waiting for me?' and they said, 'yep.'"

Led by Gary Schaer, MD, the team performs an angioplasty and installs a stent (a steel mesh tube that holds open the artery), clearing a 90 percent blockage of McDevitt's right coronary artery, then checks for additional blockages.

12:40 a.m. McDevitt's artery is opened within 90 minutes of his first presenting to Rush Oak Park Hospital, restoring blood flow to his heart muscle. He is taken from the cath lab to a room in the coronary care unit. "The medical team made amazing time," he says. "I was very lucky, because they got that stent in so quickly and opened up that artery, so there was very little damage."

"The care was excellent. I was amazed at the protocol. It was so well laid out, so well done, so quickly handled. It's probably not extraordinary to the people who provided it — it's probably something they do every day — but for me it was remarkable." •

BULLS' VISIT BRIGHTENS HOLIDAYS FOR RUSH PEDIATRIC PATIENTS

Current and past members of the Chicago Bulls brought presents and holiday cheer when they visited Rush Children's Hospital in December. The players, joined by team mascot Benny the Bull and Santa Claus himself, signed autographs and delivered toys and Bulls t-shirts and caps to children receiving care in the hospital. The visit, an annual tradition, reflects the longstanding close relationship between Rush and the basketball players who compete just a few blocks from the Medical Center: Doctors from Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush are the Bulls' team physicians, and Rush is the preferred medical center for the team.

Rush also is a partner in the Bulls' Read to Achieve program, which conducts book drives for local schools and renovates Chicago school and park district facilities to create reading and learning centers. In March, Rush partnered with the Bulls on a book drive to acquire science and math books for Calhoun North Elementary School, about a mile from the Rush campus. Calhoun is a member of the Science and Math Excellence Network, a Rush initiative to provide educational opportunities for students at more than 80 public schools.



Left to right: Former Bulls forward Bob Love and Bulls center-forwards Joakim Noah and Drew Gooden visit with patient Micah Steele in the Bulls reading room at Rush Children's Hospital.

RUSH PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

Rush has named **John Lowenberg** as the new vice president of philanthropy. Before coming to Rush, Lowenberg was the associate vice chancellor for development and associate vice president of the University of Illinois Foundation, where he oversaw major gifts, corporations and foundations and the campaign coordination for the university's \$500 million campaign. Lowenberg was with the University of Illinois at Chicago since 1978.

In September, Rush elected **Susan R. Bottum**, **John L. Brennan** and **Ron Huberman** to its Board of Trustees.

Bottum, who lives in Winnetka, is the new president of the Woman's Board of Rush University Medical Center. She assumed the presidency at the Oct. 6 meeting of the Woman's Board. Bottum has been a member of the Woman's Board since 1998. She also is active with Thresholds, a comprehensive psychiatric rehabilitation agency, serving on its board of directors since 1996 and serving as president from 2004-2006.

Brennan, who lives in Burr Ridge, is head of Wealth Management Services at William Blair & Company. Prior to joining William Blair in 2008, he was president of Bank of America's Illinois operation and central region president of its private bank. His 22-year career in financial services has included significant leadership positions in corporate and commercial banking, strategic planning, corporate marketing and wealth management.

Huberman, a resident of Chicago, was president of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) at the time of his election. Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley recently appointed him to be the new head of Chicago Public Schools. Prior to joining the CTA, Huberman was Mayor Daley's chief of staff for two years and served as executive director of the Chicago Office of Emergency Management and Communications.

KUDOS

Mohamed Farhat, MD, and **Neel Shah, MD**, both hematology oncology fellows, along with **Sea Chen, MD**, and **Jonathan Strauss, MD**, both residents in radiation oncology, participated in a "Medical Jeopardy" competition during the Chicago Multidisciplinary Symposium in Thoracic Oncology, held in November. The Rush team won against teams from the Cleveland Clinic and Loyola Medical Center. Similar to the television show, the competition included a medical-question format with single Jeopardy, double Jeopardy and final Jeopardy sessions.

The program committee for this symposium, sponsored by the American Society of Clinical Oncology, American Society of Therapeutic Radiology and Oncology and International Association for the Society for the Study of Lung Cancer, included **Philip D. Bonomi, MD**, director, Division of Hematology/ Oncology, and **James L. Mulshine, MD**, associate provost for research and professor, Department of Internal Medicine.

In November, the Medical Center received a gold award from the 12th Annual Healthcare Internet Conference for its **rushstories.org** site, a key component of the Medical Center's branding campaign. The site won in the category, "Best Web 2.0/Rich Media." The subcategory was "Hospital Subsite/Center of Excellence." Last year, **rushstories.org** won a gold award in the subcategory, "Hospital 400+ Beds." Rush was able to submit for this award two years in a row because of the microsite's redesign.

The Rush Training Center, a basic life support (also known as CPR) and advanced resuscitation training center, recently received a 100 percent score on each of the American Heart Association course inspections. The center offers classes in CPR (in English and Spanish); pediatric advanced life support; advanced cardiac life support; and first aid for Rush employees and students, as well as the public. The Rush Training Center is located in Suite 760 of the Armour Academic Center.



John Lowenberg



Neel Shah, MD



Jonathan Strauss, MD



Philip D. Bonomi, MD



For more information on classes, please call ext. 2-3556.

Rush University named **William F. Karnoscak, MLIS**, acting associate provost for student affairs. Karnoscak will continue to serve as university registrar, a position he's held since 2003. With 22 years at Rush University, he brings a wealth of experience in working with faculty, staff and students in a variety of roles. Karnoscak replaces Paul Jones, MD, Associates in Head & Neck Surgery, who stepped down from the position in December.



William F. Karnoscak, MLIS

IN MEMORIAM ROBERT HIXON GLORE

Rush Board of Trustees member Robert Hixon Glore of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff passed away on Dec. 15, 2008. He was 85 years old and had been a Rush trustee since 1954.

Following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather, who also served on Rush's board for many years, Glore was active throughout his entire tenure as a trustee. He served on the finance committee, the facilities committee, and during the last 10 years was active on the investment committee and the Rush University

Board of Overseers. During his trusteeship, Glore established the Glore Family Endowed Chair in Neonatology and the Glore Nursing Scholarship Endowed Fund. In June of 2005, he was awarded the Trustee Medal of Rush University Medical Center, which is Rush's highest honor.

Born on Feb. 17, 1923, Glore was a lifelong resident of Lake Forest, Ill. He graduated from the Kent School in Kent, Conn., in 1941 and the University of Pennsylvania

Wharton School of Business in Philadelphia in 1948. He served in the U.S. Army in intelligence in Calcutta, India, during World War II. His career in investment banking began with his father's company, Glore, Forgan and Co. During his life, Glore was actively involved in many voluntary and civic organizations, including the city of Lake Forest, the Art Institute of Chicago and the board of WBEZ public radio.

Glore is survived by his two children and five grandsons.



NEW RUSH COMMERCIALS BRING PATIENT STORIES TO TV, WEB

The next round of television commercials for Rush's "It's How Medicine Should Be" campaign debuted in late January. The ads, which feature physicians and nurses at Rush discussing stories about lung cancer and neonatal medicine patients, began Jan. 19. They have been broadcast during some of the following prime time shows: "American Idol," "Fringe," "How I Met Your Mother," "Big Bang Theory," "Survivor," "CSI," "11th Hour," "Dancing with the Stars," "Lost," "Grey's Anatomy," "Desperate Housewives," "The Closer," "Monk," "House Hunters," "Biggest Loser," "Law & Order" and "Friday Night Lights." The spots will run through May. Longer videos of each story, which include the patients, can be viewed at rushstories.org, the campaign microsite.

These ads will rotate with TV spots produced last year featuring brain tumor and congenital heart disease patient stories.

In addition to the shows listed above, some spots will appear on the following cable stations: Animal Planet, National Geographic, Discovery Health, CNN Headline News, Soap, Style, WE, Oxygen and Comcast SportsNet.

Two new radio spots on the same subjects also began running on Jan. 19. Radio stations include WBBM-AM, WCFS-FM, WDRV-FM, WFMT-FM, WGN-AM, WILV-FM, WLS-AM, WLS-FM, WLIT-FM, WNUA-FM, WTMX-FM and WVAZ-FM.

The following physicians, nurses and other caregivers at Rush were featured in these commercials:

Lung cancer TV ad and Web video — Michael Liptay, MD, thoracic surgeon; Lawrence Layfer, MD, Rush faculty member and primary care physician/rheumatologist at Skokie Hospital; and Kathy Culiner, RN, University Thoracic Surgeons.

Neonatal TV ad — Jacques Abramowicz, MD, fetal ultrasound specialist; Robert Kimura, MD, neonatologist; Aloka Patel, MD, neonatologist; and Maria Reyes, RNC, CNP, clinical coordinator, Rush Fetal and Neonatal Medicine Program.

Neonatal Web video — John Lloyd-Still, MD, pediatric gastroenterologist; Ai-Xuan Holterman, MD, pediatric surgeon; and Meghan Howie-Timmel, CSW, social worker, Rush Fetal and Neonatal Medicine Program.



Top: The "It's How Medicine Should Be" campaign in the making — the lung cancer television ad features (standing, left to right) Michael Liptay, MD, thoracic surgeon; Lawrence Layfer, MD, Rush faculty member and primary care physician/rheumatologist at Skokie Hospital; and Kathy Culiner, RN, University Thoracic Surgeons.

Bottom: (standing, left to right) Liptay, Layfer and Culiner prepare for the filming of the unscribed television ad.



PNS CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY WITH SYMPOSIUM AND GALA

In November, Rush's Professional Nursing Staff (PNS) hosted an educational symposium, "Celebrating Our Voice," and a gala dinner to celebrate 25 years of shared governance. The shared governance model is an organizational structure in which clinical nurses have a voice in determining nursing practice, standards and quality of care. Mayor Richard M. Daley proclaimed Nov. 12 Rush University Medical Center Professional Nursing Staff Day in Chicago in recognition of PNS' 25th anniversary.

PNS was created with the purpose of providing a collaborative, empowering environment in which the nursing staff at Rush could participate. By allowing nurses to take ownership of their practice, they are able to maintain accountability while deepening their sense of commitment in their professional practice. Within the shared governance model, PNS provides nurses with a way to communicate concerns and work toward solutions that benefit everyone. At Rush, all nurses are members of PNS, and all nurses have a voice. PNS has been instrumental in twice achieving Magnet recognition for Rush.



Jane Llewellyn, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, vice president, chief nursing officer, associate dean for practice, holds Mayor Daley's proclamation declaring Nov. 12 Rush University Medical Center Professional Nursing Staff Day in Chicago.

THE ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM SAYS THANKS

The Department of Community Affairs would like to thank everyone who participated in the 2008 Adopt-A-Family Program. Reginald "Hats" Adams, director of community affairs, started Adopt-A-Family more than 25 years ago, and this year, 148 families were adopted and received food, clothing, housewares and children's toys — all purchased by Rush employees, medical staff, students and friends. Without your support, many Chicago-area families wouldn't be able to celebrate the holidays. It's the kindness of Rush employees, students and volunteers that helps make the holiday season special for these families in need. To learn more about the Adopt-A-Family Program, contact Verneice Cherry at ext. 2-5961.

Adolfo Garcia from St. Pius V Church gives a thank you card to Katie Killeen, RN (left), and Tia Davis, RN (right), both of the Critical Care Unit/Cardiac Stepdown Unit, which adopted his family.



RUSH HELPS CHICAGO HOMELESS MEN RECEIVE FREE SHOES AND FREE FOOT EXAMINATIONS

Simon Lee, MD, a foot and ankle surgeon with Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush, led a team of physicians, clinicians and medical students who provided foot examinations for Chicago area homeless men on Dec. 2. The event, organized by the Chicago chapter of Soles4Souls, took place at The Franciscan House of Mary and Joseph on West Harrison Street. Soles4Souls is a charity that collects gently worn shoes and donates them to those in need.

Lee and his team performed more than 75 foot and ankle examinations; each patient was subsequently given a new pair of shoes. "The experience was both humbling and gratifying," says Lee. "This will certainly be an annual event for me, one in which I'll be privileged to take part."

The event was part of a nationwide series of screenings that took place around the Thanksgiving holiday. Soles4Souls, in partnership with Hearts to Soles, provided new boots, socks and medical screenings from foot doctors for more than 3,000 homeless men in 35 states.

In addition to Lee, the clinical staff included Rush medical residents Daniel Park, MD, and Paul Lewis, MD; Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush clinicians Lauren Simpson, PA-C, and Brandi Alonzo, OT; and orthotics and prosthetics specialists Joe Ramicone and Scott Pierce from Scheck and Sirex.

The physicians and clinical staff were assisted by a large and enthusiastic group of medical students, including Nicole Friel (M3), Julia Daher (M2), Vasili Karas (M2), Shannon Zielsdorf (M2), Joel Campbell (M1), Ryan Freedman (M1), Leslie Halpern (M1), Gabriella Ode (M1), Anthony Savino (M1), Robert Trevino (M1) and Jake Weller (M1).

26TH ANNUAL RUSH UNIVERSITY FORUM FOR RESEARCH AND CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

The 26th Annual Rush University Forum for Research and Clinical Investigation is scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, April 15 and 16, 2009. The forum is sponsored by Rush University Medical Center, Rush University, the Rush University Chapter of Sigma Xi, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County and the affiliated hospitals of the Rush System for Health. Investigators engaged in basic, clinical or applied research in all disciplines will have an opportunity to share their work, get to know one another and discover new collaborative possibilities. The public and all members of the Rush community are welcome to the forum sessions. For more information, please contact Matt Raymond, director, Intellectual Property Office, at ext. 3-2780 or at matthew_j_raymond@rush.edu.

AND THE LUCKY WINNER IS...

Thank you to all of those who have received a flu shot this season. Everyone who received a flu shot or completed the vaccination documentation form was entered into a drawing to win \$1,000, and Christopher Chan, MD, a resident in Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, was the lucky winner. The drawing has ended, but it's not too late to get your flu shot. The vaccine is still available to protect you, your family and Rush patients. For more information, call employee and corporate health services at ext. 2-5878 or infection control at ext. 2-3060.



Christopher Chan, MD

NEWSROUNDS

July 2009
Volume 48, Number 3

Rush University Medical Center

TRANSFORMING RUSH: NEW PARKING GARAGE OPENS

Environmentally Friendly Facility Expands Space for Staff and Students

The new Rush staff and student parking garage at Paulina and Flournoy streets opened in June, making it both the first building to be completed as part of the Rush Transformation and a vivid example of Rush's commitment to environmental sustainability.

"This is a big step forward in the transformation of the Rush campus in order to provide even better care for our patients," says Joe DeVoss, assistant vice president, Office of Transformation. "We're glad to be able to make our new parking facility available to our employees, and to do it in a way that's environmentally friendly."

Part of a building that also includes the Medical Center's new power plant, the new seven-floor garage has 795 parking spaces for staff and students. Rush personnel who currently park in the main garage have access to both the existing garage and the new facility.

In addition, as many as 500 employees who had been using remote lots located north of the Eisenhower Expressway during the garage's construction have returned to the main campus parking facilities. They, too, have the flexibility of choosing either garage. Patient parking in the main parking garage has been expanded by approximately 85 spaces.

"I'm grateful to the more than 500 members of the Rush community who have been using the remote lots while the new parking garage was being built. I thank them for



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on May 29 to commemorate the opening of the new staff and student parking garage. Members of the Office of Transformation and the Rush Parking Committee looked on as John Wolfe (center), a resident of the Johnston R. Bowman Retirement Apartments, did the honors. Wolfe has been tracking the progress of the new garage's construction since the beginning from his sitting room.

their cooperation and for literally taking extra steps to accommodate the construction," says Peter Butler, executive vice president and chief operating officer.

In addition to accommodating the transportation needs of Rush staff, the new garage incorporates numerous sustainable design features in order to minimize its impact on the environment. "From the beginning, sustainable design has been one of the guiding principles for the transformation process," DeVoss says.

Rush is seeking Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the East Tower and Orthopedic Building, both currently under construction. The U.S. Green Building Council, a nonprofit organization, awards LEED certification to buildings with high environmental standards. Although garages can't receive LEED certification, the

Rush garage has so many "green" features that it could receive a gold (second highest) LEED certification if it were eligible, DeVoss says.

Preferred Parking Available for Energy Efficient Vehicles

Employees who drive energy efficient cars have the opportunity to take advantage of preferred parking in the new staff and student garage. Twenty-five parking stalls close to the entrance are reserved for energy-efficient vehicles. Placards are available for these vehicles, and the lot will be monitored to make sure that only the right cars park in the stalls. "It's not just hybrids," DeVoss says. "If a car gets 35 miles to the gallon or more, it qualifies."

To view a list of cars that qualify for these spaces, and print out a parking placard for an eligible

IN THIS ISSUE

Orthopedics Patient Climbs Mt. Everest
Rush University Rated Highly in
U.S. News Rankings

KEEP IT FIT PROGRAM PROMOTES WELLNESS IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITY

Rush Students Coach Participants About Healthy Eating

Terrance White intends to be around for a long time.

"I'd like to live until I'm 120," the 38-year-old resident of the Woodlawn neighborhood says with a chuckle. "That means I have to eat the right foods and work out. My focus is to take every preventive action I can to maintain good health for myself and set a good example for my son."

With that goal in mind, White, a benefits consultant for a health insurance company, enrolled himself and his six year-old son, Terrance Jr., in Keep It Fit, a free program that Rush offered from January through June in collaboration with the Salvation Army to help Chicago residents fight obesity and maintain healthy lifestyles.

Keep It Fit also provided an educational opportunity for about 40 Rush university student volunteers, who participated in the program as teachers and coaches. Cynthia Waickus, MD, family medicine specialist at Rush, was the Rush faculty advisor for the student volunteers.

"One of the best things Rush can do to increase the health of our community is help people make healthier choices and prevent health problems from occurring," Waickus says. "The Keep It Fit program is an example of how Rush works with our community partners to achieve this goal, and how our community services also help Rush fulfill our educational mission."

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KEEP IT FIT

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Education, Coaching Help Reinforce Healthy Behavior

Aimed primarily at families in the underserved Englewood neighborhood on Chicago's South Side, the Keep It Fit program was offered at a time when obesity in Chicago was at record levels. According to a recent study by the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children, 23 percent of the city's pre-kindergarten-aged children are overweight.

"The problem is entrenched for many reasons, including limited access to healthy foods, a lack of knowledge of healthy nutrition, little to no physical exercise, and just a general lack of support for healthy lifestyles," says Captain Julian Champion, corps officer at the Salvation Army's Red Shield Corps Community Center in the Englewood neighborhood.

More than 65 people, including parents and children, took part in the six-month Keep It Fit program, which began in January. Once a month, the participants met at the Red Shield Center, where medical, nursing and allied health students from Rush weighed them; made presentations about diet and nutrition; and reviewed the journals in which adult participants recorded everything they ate and the amount of time they had spent exercising. Keep It Fit participants also were



(Left to right) Nutrition students Cassie Vanderwall and Kelly Roehl and Executive Chef Stanley Walker conduct a cooking demonstration for participants in Rush's Keep It Fit program.

served healthy meal options and snacks, such as vegetarian stir-fry, vegetarian chili and baked chips.

"The food journals make us more conscientious about what we're eating, and they give us a lot of ideas about how to modify some of the bad foods we've been eating and replace them with good foods," White says. Since starting the Keep It Fit program, he's changed his diet to include breads and cereals that are higher in fiber, fresh fruit instead of canned, more vegetables that are high in antioxidants and less lunchmeat and chips.

Rush Students Hone Skills While Guiding Families

Robert Trevino, a first-year student at the Rush Medical College, says the Keep It Fit program also is helping prepare students to work together in interdisciplinary teams and developing their patient interaction skills. "The key to any sort of interaction is just being comfortable talking to someone about what's happening with them," he reflects. "The more you talk to people, the more comfortable you are, and the better you're going to be in those situations as a doctor, a nurse or a dietitian."

Each of the students was assigned to one of the participating families to help them develop a personalized plan to maintain a healthy lifestyle. In between the monthly meetings, the students had weekly phone calls with the families to follow their progress. "We try to keep them on their goal, look at what's been working, what hasn't been working and help them make adjustments," Trevino says.

Rush faculty and staff also contributed to the Keep It Fit effort. In April, Mary Gregoire, PhD, director of Food and Nutrition Services and chair of the Department of Clinical Nutrition; Sally Lipson, MS, instructor, clinical nutrition; Stanley Walker,

executive chef, patient food services; and Lipson's students conducted a cooking demonstration for more than two dozen of the adults in the Keep It Fit program.

They cooked with food items many of the family members listed on their food journals, but adapted them into healthier meals, for example, substituting skinless, oven-baked chicken for fried chicken. During the demonstration, nutrition students also solicited and answered questions from the audience.

In May, the Keep It Fit families received complete health screenings during the annual health fair conducted by students in the RU Caring volunteer service program.

The Keep It Fit Program will resume in the fall with a new group of families at a new Salvation Army-affiliated location. At least one of the program's first participants is glad to see it will continue.

"The program is excellent," White says. "Instead of just studying their material, the students are getting involved in the community and developing relationships with the community, and it's making the community more conscious of what they're putting inside of themselves." •

NEWSROUNDS

July 2009

Have a news item or story idea for *NewsRounds*? Contact the editor at: Phone: 942-5582 Fax: 563-4149 E-mail: anne_burgeson@rush.edu

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Please note: All physicians featured in this publication are on the medical staff of Rush University Medical Center. Some of the physicians are in private practice and, as independent practitioners, are not employees or agents of Rush University Medical Center.

PARKING GARAGE

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vehicle, visit the Facilities Upgrade Archive on the Rush intranet at <http://iris.rush.edu/portal/Facilities-archive.html> and click on the headline “New Staff and Student Parking Garage Offers Green Amenities.” Links for the list of cars and the placard are at the bottom of the story.

“It would have been a lot easier to not have included preferred parking and the other environmentally sustainable features, but Rush is taking the idea of turning our campus green very seriously,” DeVoss says. “The new garage shows how we can find more environmentally sustainable solutions to everything we do here.” •

PARKING GARAGE “GREEN” FEATURES WILL SAVE ENERGY AND WATER

Encouraging energy conservation by offering preferred parking for energy-efficient vehicles is one of many environmentally sustainable features found in the new garage. Additional “green” features include the following:

- Vines will grow along the north and west walls.
- Rainwater that falls on the upper deck of the garage and on top of the power plant is being filtered and diverted into tanks in the building to be used for mechanical processes.
- The water used in the air filtration system in the East Tower will be diverted to the parking garage and central energy plant to be used in the building’s cooling towers. “We’re going to take water that usually is flushed down the drains as a byproduct of the cooling coils and run it over to the cooling towers,” DeVoss says. “We’re probably the first place ever to do that.”
- Otis Gen2 elevators capture the energy created during braking and feed it back into the garage’s electrical grid. The elevators also use polyurethane-coated steel belts and a gearless motor, which don’t need oil or other lubrication.
- A park outside the garage at the corner of Ashland Avenue and Flournoy Street also will act as a green roof for the underground loading dock. “It screens and softens the edge of the campus along Ashland Avenue, which faces residences,” DeVoss says.
- Landscaping will be planted along Flournoy Street that includes indigenous plants that need less water than conventional lawn grass. The curb is cut at each of the planters so that rain water flowing down the gutters will flow into the planters. “A normal building would use a mechanical irrigation system, but in a LEED-sustainable world, that’s not something you do,” DeVoss says.
- The garage has been built with reusable materials, including steel from northern Indiana; concrete made from recycled content; and low volatile organic compound adhesives, paintings, sealings and coatings.
- Rush recycled 90 to 95 percent of the construction waste as the garage was built.
- Low-flow plumbing fixtures are available throughout the building.



Shari Brandli, medical student, receives her match with the Department of Anesthesiology at Rush University Medical Center.

RUSH STUDENTS CELEBRATE MATCH DAY, COMMENCEMENT

Excited fourth-year Rush Medical College students learned where they would begin their residency training on March 19, when results from the National Residency Matching Program were simultaneously released to all senior medical students across the United States. The program matches fourth-year students at medical schools throughout the United States with the residency programs where they will receive their medical specialty training.

This year, 123 Rush medical students were matched with postgraduate appointments in 17 specialties at 60 institutions spanning 27 different states. Internal medicine was the most matched specialty, and Illinois was the most common state. Twenty-five students will continue their training at Rush.

The residencies began following the June 13 commencement ceremony held at the UIC Pavilion. More than 300 students in the Rush Medical College, the Graduate College at Rush University, the Rush University College of Nursing and the College of Health Sciences at Rush University received their degrees. The commencement speaker was Mardge Cohen, MD (Rush Medical College 1976), professor of medicine at Rush. Cohen also is founder of the Cook County Hospital Women and Children’s HIV Program and co-founder and medical director of the international health initiative Women’s Equity in Access to Care and Treatment of HIV. •



Left to right: Rush Medical College students Steven Larsen, Aaron Muller, Kunwarjit Duggal, Silas Hoxie and Jeffrey Gehl prior to receiving their medical degrees at commencement.

EXPLORING THE RUSH VALUES AND THEIR IMPACT

To help Rush staff better understand the Medical Center's values of innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect and excellence and how we all can incorporate them into our jobs each day, the Department of Employee and Organizational Development launched a year-long program of conversations, activities and celebrations that began in January.

The centerpiece of this initiative is "Talking About the Rush Values," a bimonthly series of small luncheon discussions between employees and Larry Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO. Each conversation focuses on one of the values and how it applies to Rush's mission to provide the best possible care for our patients.

"Further discussion and examination of the values of innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect and excellence allow us to better incorporate them into our daily routine and work toward the goal of providing the best in patient care in Chicago and across the country," Goodman explains.

The discussions with Goodman are just one component of the values program. Employee and organizational development also is conducting the following:

- Values-related workshops, including sessions about how Rush employees can draw upon the values to elevate the level of their job performance.
- Celebrations of the value being featured in each two-month period.
- A conversation open to everyone that concludes each celebration.

Innovation kicked off the year in January and February, followed by collaboration in March and April and accountability in May and June. The series rounds out with respect in September and October and ends with excellence in November and December.

"This initiative is another component of the ongoing Linking Education and Performance (LEAP) workshops that specifically cover the values," says Maggie Shreve, senior consultant, employee and organizational development. "We're always looking for new ways to explore the Rush values."

To celebrate innovation, patient relations and human resources

sponsored a contest seeking innovative ways to improve patient care at Rush. "Employees are talking about and incorporating innovation into their day-to-day work processes," explains Angela L. Smith, senior consultant, employee and organizational development. "With the innovation contest, we wanted to encourage employees to share their innovative suggestions with the focus of improving the patient experience."

The contest's main purpose was to spark innovation among employees while also getting them to work toward the Medical Center's goal of creating an environment that leads to more satisfied patients. More than 100 Rush employees submitted suggestions to improve the patient experience with innovative ideas. A majority of the recommendations involved way-finding and signage for patients and their families and friends. There were also many creative suggestions about improving patients' comfort and safety. All the suggested ideas will help Rush as the Medical Center moves forward to improve the campus.

The submitted ideas had to meet certain criteria, including offering an improvement to the patient experience; displaying innovation; and being possible to implement in 60 days. The winners each won a meal for two in Room 500. The following are the two winners and their suggestions:

- Install a bench in the lobby for patients coming into Jelke, submitted by Cathy Bishop, laboratory manager, Department of Pathology, Rush Medical Laboratories.
- Put a small pad of paper and pen in the patient rooms so patients can keep notes and record questions for their treatment team, suggested by Sue Zogata, manager, University Neurosurgery.

A panel of judges collaborated to narrow down the list to the two

winners. Smith says the Medical Center is working to get both suggestions implemented this summer.

Collaboration: From Our Team to Yours

In March, Rush began exploring the idea of collaboration and how we all must work together to advance the interests of and meet the needs of everyone here at the Medical Center. To help celebrate Rush's collaborative spirit, human resources created a collaboration event, called "From Our Team to Yours."

The idea behind this event was for employees to recognize a department that has helped them in their jobs at Rush. Employees were instructed to e-mail their information to mvv_stories@rush.edu along with the department they were nominating and examples of how the two departments have collaborated.

Human resources gave participants in the event a "Celebrating Collaboration" thank you poster and some special "I CARE, I Collaborate" buttons for their department and the department they were thanking. Additionally, e-mail requests were entered into a drawing for a special collaboration lunch in Room 500 for the nominating team and the team they thanked. The winners were: a Rush University Internists team, who recognized the pre-registration department; and Joan Mikol and her nightshift team from Labor and Delivery, who recognized the night-shift pharmacy.



From left to right: Kimberly Askew, Preregistration; Felicia Brown, Rush University Internists; Tyrone McMurray, Preregistration; and Catalina Ruiz, formerly with Rush University Internists, during the collaboration luncheon.



"It was great to hear these stories and see how cross-disciplinary teams at Rush really work together to get the job done," says Liz Hackel, employee and organizational development. "More than 400 people were directly affected by this event which made it a great success."

Going Forward

During the months of May and June, Rush employees examined the importance of accountability and how it applies to jobs at the Medical Center. Accountability is central to health care: Rush employees are accountable for themselves, their patients and their work environment.

To better understand how accepting ownership and responsibility for specific contributions leads to the Medical Center's success at becoming the best in patient care, human resources initiated an essay contest, asking employees to show how the Joint Commission's National Patient Safety goals apply to their particular jobs within the Medical Center, regardless of whether the employee works directly with patients. The purpose was to see how aware Rush employees are of the goals, and how they are integrating those goals into their jobs. One person will be chosen in July as the winner of the essay contest and will receive a free meal with a guest in Room 500.

Highlighting how the Medical Center as a whole is held accountable to Joint Commission standards, employees participated in making rounds on the patient floors with the quality team. During the mock Joint Commission rounds, the quality team asked Rush employees random questions regarding the goals. The purpose was to show people what takes place during a typical Joint Commission visit.

Look for more information in the next few months about the events related to respect in September and October and excellence in November and December. For questions or more information regarding this series, please contact Jake Nuber at ext. 3-2803 or e-mail jacob_nuber@rush.edu. •

For more information about the Rush values, visit the Rush intranet at <http://iris.rush.edu/news/ICARE-values.html>.

RUSH RESEARCH IN THE NEWS

Rush University Medical Center is a major medical research institution as well as a provider of outstanding medical care. The Medical Center's physicians, scientists and researchers are pursuing new understanding of complex medical questions and new treatments and techniques, all with the aim of ultimately improving care. The following Rush researchers and studies recently have received local and national media attention for their endeavors.

Shift Work Sleep Study

A study about shift workers and sleep by the Biological Rhythms Research Laboratory at Rush was featured in the December 2008, issue of the journal *SLEEP*. The study appeared on several television stations around the country and in the March issue of *Men's Journal*. The study found that the use of light exposure therapy, dark sunglasses and a strict sleep schedule can help night-shift workers increase performance and alertness during night shifts while still allowing adequate nighttime sleep on days off.

Medical Holograms Give Doctors Cutting-Edge View

Doctors at Rush are testing Perspecta 3-D, a new imaging tool that enables them to view sites within a patient's body as a 3-D hologram. Thomas Zusag, MD, and James Chu, PhD, radiation oncology, were interviewed about the system on WFLD FOX-32 in February. "Our study found the Perspecta Spatial 3-D Display provides users with complex information in a more efficient and natural way," Chu says. "We are looking forward to an expanded study with a larger number of patients to determine the true potential of this system."

What Your Mother Did as a Child May Have An Effect on You

What a mother did long before becoming pregnant may affect her children's memory and the severity of learning disorders, according to a study by researchers at Rush University Medical Center published in the

Feb. 4 issue of *The Journal of Neuroscience*. Dean Hartley, PhD, a neuroscience researcher at Rush and study co-investigator, was quoted in numerous national and international articles, including the wire services Reuters and HealthDay. "We were able to demonstrate that environmental enrichment during youth has dramatic additional powers," Hartley says. "It can enhance the memory in future offspring of enriched juvenile mice."

Education and Memory Loss

A study by researchers at Rush shows the level of education individuals attain does not appear to protect against how quickly they lose their memory. The study was published in the February issue of the journal *Neurology*. Robert S. Wilson, PhD, neuropsychologist at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, was quoted in numerous national publications, including WebMD, Bloomberg News and HealthDay. "While education is associated with the memory's ability to function at a higher level, we found no link between higher education and how fast the memory losses that ability," says study author Wilson.

Traumatic Brain Injury Grant

Rush University Medical Center is one of 11 health care facilities in the United States and Canada that are participating in a National Institutes of Health-funded study to identify the most effective rehabilitation techniques for traumatic brain injuries. The *Chicago Tribune* published a feature article about the study

in January that included quotes from James Young, MD, chairperson of the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, and Deborah Wallace, clinical manager of occupational therapy. "This is the single, largest and most important study ever done on brain injury and could determine what we're going to do for the next 10 to 20 years," says Young, the study's principal investigator at Rush. "We would love to be able to say objectively that a particular therapy is what makes a difference."

Cost Effectiveness of Spinal Surgery

Gunnar Andersson, MD, orthopedic surgery, was quoted in an article appearing on the UPI wire service on Dec. 30, 2008, and in the *Los Angeles Times* on Jan. 12 about a new study by researchers at Rush that examines the cost benefits of spinal surgery. "With the number of spine surgery cases in the United States increasing and the rising costs of health care expenditures, it is extremely important for us to understand the economic value of common surgical procedures," Andersson says.

For more information about these studies and the latest news about Rush research, please visit the "Rush In The News" page on the Rush Web site, www.rush.edu.

Print articles also are available for viewing on the Rush intranet site located at <http://iris.rush.edu/news/>. To access the articles, go to the green bar on the left side of the page and select the link, "Media Clips."



Every quarter, Rush employees are recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty for patients, families, visitors and co-workers. These employees are shining examples of the Rush I CARE core values (innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect and excellence). Here are the winners of Rush's awards for the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2008.

Employee of the Quarter

Chandala Watson, RN, clinical nurse II in women and children's nursing, has been very busy. She was involved in improving the quality and safety of the delivery of drugs to pediatric patients and helped to ensure that chemotherapy orders contained the appropriate information, were legibly written and were completed within a timely manner. Watson took a leading role in a collaborative team that met weekly to identify problems with the system of providing chemotherapy orders to pharmacists and nurses with accurate information. As a result, a better system was created for prewriting chemotherapy orders, with Watson giving them the final check before they become permanent hard-coded orders. She also has played an important role in teaching nurses and support staff about Epic and the new nurse call pager system by instructing individuals who could not attend training sessions. In addition to these efforts, Watson, along with others in her department, took a more active role in assisting a pregnant patient who had a rare form of cancer. "As one of Chan's managers, I could not be prouder of how she handled all of the ups and downs. She was a consistent light and hope for this patient and her family," says Elizabeth J. Casseday, RN, clinical nurse coordinator, pediatric adolescent services.

Manager of the Quarter

Patricia Gibbons, speech pathology coordinator, Department of Communication Disorders and

Sciences, had a lot to do when she was hired into a position that had been vacant for a while. Within the two years she has been at Rush, she has hired a staff of bright and engaged speech therapists; worked through a complicated process to obtain patient treatment space within the Johnston R. Bowman Health Center (JRB); and collaborated with Marketing and Communications to develop a marketing brochure for speech-language pathology. She consistently shows strong collaborative skills in working with management and other disciplines within JRB. "Her personal commitment to excellence and collegial skills are evident in her daily interactions with patients and staff," says Janet Wilson, MSW, rehabilitation liaison in the JRB. "What she has contributed to her staff and JRB administration, and also to the speech-language pathology patients who come to Rush, clearly demonstrates the I CARE values."

Team of the Quarter

In the two years since the robotic surgery team was formed, this group of nurses and technicians have come together quickly to establish a true sense of cooperation, accountability and professionalism. The team's goal was to expand its membership by conducting training workshops and establishing a unique mentorship program. This team not only has performed and supported a growing number of surgical cases, using a robot that offers state-of-the-art visual and mechanical enhancements to surgeries, but also successfully has incorporated additional staff to support the program's expansion to include the Department of Gynecology. "During my recent deployment to Iraq, I was confident in the ability of the team and its more senior staff. I was pleased to note upon my return that the program had begun and a number of surgeons already were performing successful procedures, thanks in large part to the outstanding efforts of this dedicated team," says Wiley G. Roberts, RN, operating room nurse clinician, Department of Operating Room Surgical Services.

Patient Satisfaction "Star"

Every quarter, an employee whose name appears in two or more favorable patient evaluations is awarded the patient satisfaction "star" award. This quarter, five stars were honored: Cindy Beren, RN, labor and delivery; Hubert Lin, RN, pediatric intensive care unit (PICU); Michelle Nardulli, RN, surgical intensive care unit; Sunayana Shama, RN; and Vivian T aylor, patient access/registration. Their evaluations included the following patient comments:

- "Cindy was absolutely amazing! I could not have delivered my twins without her. She is totally patient, knowledgeable and in tune with patients' needs. She made our experience at Rush something we will always cherish and remember."
- "All of my daughter's nurses on the PICU floor were awesome, especially Hubert. He was excellent! Hubert knew we had a long drive home, and he was very considerate with getting everything done at discharge."
- "Michelle pulled the phone to my ear so I could talk to my daughter after I was extubated. That meant a lot to me and my family. She made our day!"
- "Sunayana was an excellent nurse. Sunayana was attentive to my needs and my mom's. Sunayana was careful to maintain sterile technique, washed her hands, problem solved care needs and communicated about the care and procedures."
- "I loved Vivian. She has a great rapport and sense of humor for so early in the morning. I like that she gave me comfort on the way into surgery. This was my third experience with her. I like the continuity!"

Carol Stege Award for Environmental Services

Willie Carter, environmental specialist, has received numerous letters of praise for her work and kindness. The letters included comments such as, "Ms. Carter deserves a letter of excellence for her duties," and "Ms. Willie, thank you for letting your light shine in

the halls of 9N. Your beautiful smile was such an encouragement to us. You have quite a ministry to those you meet." Members of the staff on 9 North Atrium wrote, "Ms. Willie, thank you so much for keeping 9N so clean. We've heard so many compliments from patients about the great work you do. And of course thanks for cleaning up the messes that we nurses can make."

Carol Stege Award for Medical Center Engineering

Phillip Tavoletti, journeyman, began working at Rush in 2004. Tavoletti works with all trades — heating, ventilation and air conditioning, plumbing and electric. "Phil is one of the most dedicated employees who has worked for Medical Center Engineering in a long time. He has a spotless work record," says John Geisler, heating, ventilation and air conditioning supervisor, Medical Center Engineering. "He takes pride in all the work that he is assigned — every project Phil does, he does well. He has excellent customer service skills, and I strive to have that on my team."

Rush Values Award Winner

Rush's catheterization laboratory staff is accountable for ensuring that there are expertly trained personnel on call in the lab at all times. The majority of patient procedures the lab staff performs on an emergent basis are for patients who are experiencing a heart attack, when time is of the essence. The time from when the patient is received until the time the blockage is opened is labeled the "door-to-balloon time." Keeping the "door-to-balloon time" less than 90 minutes is a Joint Commission core measure and is strongly recommended by the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology. "Because of this staff's demonstration of the Rush values, our institution's 'door-to-balloon time' is exemplary. I would like to recognize the entire staff for their dedication to the excellent care of these difficult, unstable emergent patients," says Deborah Macey, RN, manager, cardiac catheterization unit. •

To nominate someone for a quarterly award, call Clare Quinn at ext. 2-3641 or e-mail clare_j_quinn@rush.edu.

4th Quarter Employee Awards



Patricia Gibbons



Willie Carter



Phillip Tavoletti



(Left to right) Cindy Beren, RN; Sunayana Shama, RN; Michelle Nardulli, RN; Hubert Lin, RN; and Vivian Traylor.



The robotic surgery team (left to right): Patricia Farrell, RN; Solithia Cole, RN; Johanna Placek, RN; Lindsay Pontarelli, RN; and Hope Clark, RN. Not pictured: Rose Andron, RN; Keisher Davis; Celine Lisikiewicz, RN; Brianna Walsh, RN; Estelita Garcia; and Mark Stolspart, RN.



(Left to right) Cardiac catheterization lab team: Deborah Macey, RN; Robert McLaughlin; Stephanie West, RN; Mary Rechenmacher, RN; Richard Tongue; Douglas Dostal, RN; Melissa Sperfslage; and Gary Schaer, MD. Not pictured: Kathryn Kessler, RN; Fia Torres, RN; Susie Duroe, RN; and Amy King, RN.

RUSH RECEIVES PERFECT SCORE IN NATIONAL HEALTHCARE EQUALITY INDEX SURVEY

Rush's commitment to maintaining a culture of respect and inclusiveness for all people has been recognized once again. The Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) 2009 has awarded the Medical Center a perfect rating.

The HEI is an annual survey that evaluates the nation's hospitals on their treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) patients, their families and hospital employees. Rush is the only hospital in the Midwest to receive the highest possible rating in the survey, and one of only 10 medical centers in the country that answered "yes" to each of the survey's main criterion. The survey rated 166 hospitals nationwide.

The HEI is a collaboration of the Human Rights Campaign Foundation and the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. According to the Human Rights Campaign Foundation, the survey is the first step toward establishing a nationwide set of standards to reduce discrimination and ensure quality, hospital-based health care.

The survey assessed hospitals regarding such key policies and practices as model patient visitation policies, advanced health care directives, cultural competency training and employment non-discrimination policies. Rush's perfect HEI score means that the Medical Center has established a set of model policies, standards and training that will provide the entire health care industry with a benchmark for treatment of the LGBT community.

"Creating a welcoming and supportive environment for members of the LGBT community is an important part of Rush's commitment to inclusion and of our Rush Diversity Leadership Initiative," explains Larry Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO.

RUSH CANCER PROGRAM RECEIVES OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FROM AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS' COMMISSION ON CANCER

RUSH IS ONLY CHICAGO HOSPITAL TO RECEIVE THIS YEAR'S AWARD

Rush University Medical Center's cancer program has been awarded a 2008 Outstanding Achievement Award from the American College of Surgeons' Commission on Cancer (CoC). Rush has received this triennial award each of the two times the Medical Center has been evaluated by the CoC since the award was established in 2004.

Rush is the only Chicago cancer program to receive this year's award, and one of only three sites in Illinois. Only 93 cancer programs nationwide received this year's award, representing approximately 19 percent of the 478 programs the CoC surveyed. During its evaluation process, the CoC also gave its approval to the Rush cancer program, a prerequisite for the Outstanding Achievement Award.

"Rush is proud to have received the Commission on Cancer's approval and Outstanding Achievement Award again," says Katherine L. Griem, MD, radiation oncologist and chairperson of the Rush Cancer Committee. "It is a clear affirmation that we continue to provide our patients with outstanding care in their battle against cancer.

At Rush, we are able to offer our patients the most advanced treatments available, including the opportunity to participate in clinical trials of the most promising new cancer therapies."

The Outstanding Achievement Award recognizes cancer programs that strive for excellence in providing quality care to cancer patients. To receive this distinction, a cancer program must achieve a "commendation" level of compliance with selected standards that represent the full scope of the program, including leadership, data management, clinical services, research, community outreach and quality improvement. In addition, the program must receive a compliance rating in the 29 other standards used in the evaluation. The on-site evaluation is conducted by a physician surveyor once every three years.

The CoC is a consortium of professional organizations dedicated to improving survival and quality of life for cancer patients through standard-setting, prevention, research, education and the monitoring of comprehensive care. Its membership includes fellows



Joyce Williams (left), manager, health information management and Katherine Griem, MD (right), chair of the Rush Cancer Committee, with the Outstanding Achievement Award.

of the American College of Surgeons and representatives of 47 national organizations that reflect the full spectrum of cancer care.

Rush offers a comprehensive range of standard and investigational therapies for the treatment of cancer, with more than a dozen programs specializing in the treatment of specific

cancers. Rush treats more than 2,500 patients for cancer annually. In addition to providing state-of-the-art clinical care that includes the option to participate in clinical trials of experimental cancer treatments, Rush offers a wide range of complementary treatments, such as nutritional counseling, and a patient navigator service to help guide patients through care. •

RUSH RECEIVES \$10 MILLION GIFT FROM THE GRAINGER FOUNDATION

Rush University Medical Center has received a \$10 million commitment from The Grainger Foundation in Lake Forest, Ill.

The gift will fund construction of an orthopedic joint replacement surgery center within the new Rush East Tower, now under construction and scheduled to open in 2012. The center will be part of the new hospital's interventional platform, which is comprised of three vertically aligned floors, each containing 14 operating/procedure rooms, associated preparation and recovery rooms and support space.

"We are particularly moved by and grateful to The Grainger Foundation, one of a number

of individuals and foundations that have made significant financial commitments to Rush during this difficult economic period," says Larry J. Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO.

As of mid-May, Rush had received a total of \$265 million in gifts and pledges toward the Medical Center's fundraising goal of \$300 million. Funds raised from the campaign will be allocated as follows: \$180 million for the Rush campus transformation project; \$70 million for research and education; and \$50 million to enhance existing clinical and community programs.

Other major gifts to Rush during the campaign have included

\$20 million from the Herb family; \$20 million from Mary Jo and John Boler; \$13 million from an anonymous donor; \$10 million from the Woman's Board of Rush; \$12.3 million from the Rush medical staff; and \$7.5 million from the McCormick Foundation.

"I believe I speak for everyone associated with Rush when I say that we are truly grateful and fortunate to have received such generous financial support from so many individuals, families, foundations and corporations, as well as from our own employees and faculty," Goodman says. "In an uncertain time, this philanthropy has helped to put Rush on a strong foundation that



An artist's rendering of Rush's East Tower, currently under construction.

enables the Medical Center to excel and to fulfill our mission of patient care, education, research and community service." •

RUSH SHARES KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WITH ASIAN NURSING DELEGATION

Rush welcomed a delegation of Asian nurses to the Medical Center in March while they were in Chicago for the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses' (AORN) annual conference. The nurses were from both mainland China and Taiwan and had asked to visit a teaching hospital during the AORN conference.

Hope Clarke, RN, clinical nurse coordinator, operating room (OR), organized the visit, dividing the approximately 40 nurses into two groups that rotated between the OR, Room 500 and the Sterile Processing Department. The Room 500 portion of the visit included lectures from Janet Ladone RN, nurse clinician, OR, who gave a presentation on the structure of the operating room; Beverly Hancock, RN, MS, education-quality coordinator, Nursing Systems, who presented Rush's Magnet status; Rachel Start, RN, president of the Professional Nursing Staff (PNS), who

presented the role of shared governance and PNS; and Beverly Huckman, associate vice president for equal opportunity, who welcomed the group on behalf of Rush University Medical Center. The four-hour visit, which was interpreted, concluded with a tour of the nursing school and a trip to the roof of the parking garage to take photos of Chicago's skyline.

"They were particularly interested in the final verification/timeout procedure we use in the OR," says Clarke. Immediately prior to the start of the operation, a nurse asks a series of set questions, known as the universal protocol, to verify the correct patient, procedure, surgical site and implants as applicable before the incision is made. "This procedure is done to ensure that all patients receive safe operations," Clarke explains. "The nurses also were amazed at the number of surgical procedures (approximately 20,000) that we do at Rush every year." •



Hsiao Zheng, surgical assistant with the Department of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgery (left), talks to a group of visiting Chinese nurses on a tour of Rush's operating room.

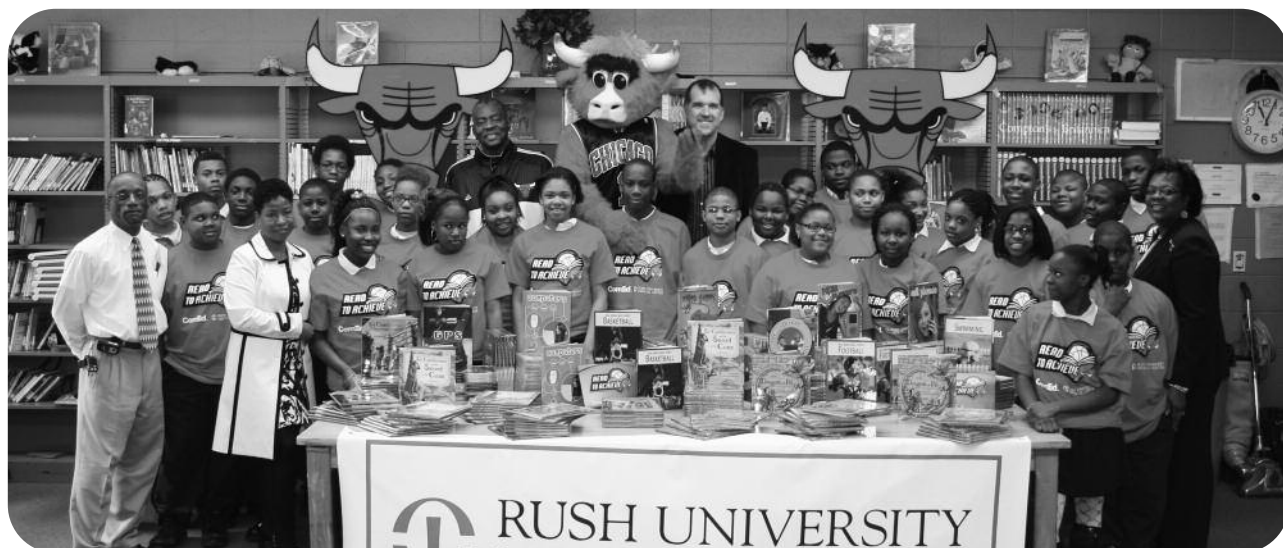
RUSH, CHICAGO BULLS PARTNER IN BOOK DRIVE FOR LOCAL SCHOOL

Thanks to Rush employees and others who supported the virtual book drive for the Chicago Bulls' Read To Achieve program, more than 300 science and math textbooks were presented to John C. Calhoun North Elementary School on the city's West Side on April 3.

Rush is a partner with the Bulls in the basketball team's Read To Achieve program, which inspires literacy among Chicago's youth by encouraging families and adults to read regularly with young children. Doctors from Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush are the Bulls' team physicians, and Rush is the preferred medical center for the team.

"We try to instill in our children that they must read, read and read," says school principal Cynthia Hughes Hannah. "Thank you for this generous gift, and thank you for choosing Calhoun."

Preselected by teachers, the colorfully illustrated textbooks included such titles as Sir Cumference and the Dragon of Pi, which is about geometry, and Basketball: Real World Math, which explores how measurement, tallying, averaging and other math



Students at John C. Calhoun North Elementary School with Timothy Lesure, reading/math teacher (far left); Tracey Ginwright, assistant principal (in white coat); Cynthia Hughes, principal (far right); and (back row) former Chicago Bulls players Bob Love (left) and Bill Wennington (right) and team mascot Benny the Bull.

skills can help fans and athletes better understand and play the game. The books will be used to supplement the school's curriculum and support after-school programs.

During the event, team mascot Benny the Bull high-fived the kids, waltzed with Principal Hughes, and somersaulted over the desktops, as 25 fifth-through eighth-graders listened with rapt attention to former players Bill Wennington and Bob Love. Towering

over the children, Love urged the kids to "stay in school and get an education." If you do, he promised, "The sky will be the limit. You are our math and science all-stars."

Calhoun North Elementary is a member of the Science and Math Excellence (SAME) Network, a large-scale community service enterprise developed by Rush's Department of Community Affairs in response to low science, math and reading test

scores in Chicago schools located near the hospital.

The SAME Network provides students in these neighborhoods with the same opportunities to learn math and science as are available to their peers in more affluent areas. Since it was established in 1990, the SAME Network has grown into a collaboration between Rush and 45 elementary schools, six high schools and many Chicago-area businesses. •

ILLINOIS GOVERNOR QUINN PRAISES RUSH DURING VISIT

Illinois Governor Pat Quinn visited Rush in March and praised the Medical Center as being both a provider of excellent health care and an important economic engine. "In Illinois, we have these great centers of medical education and hospitals that are renowned across the world. This is one of the strengths of our economy," Quinn said.

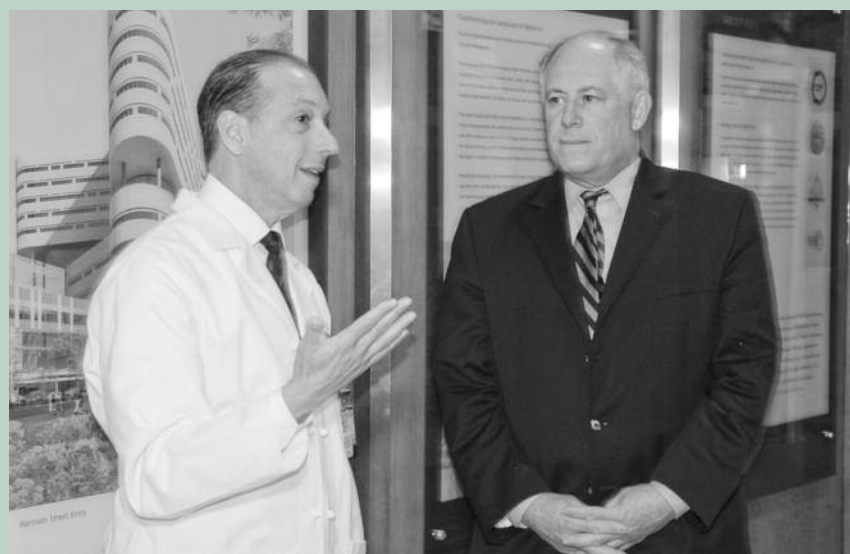
Quinn was joined by numerous labor leaders during his press conference at the Medical Center, which was part of the governor's effort to drum up support for his proposed capital spending program. The governor cited Rush's transformation construction projects as an example of the kind of major capital initiatives needed to generate jobs in Illinois.

"We have to invest money in big projects that put people to work,"

Quinn said. "This is one of the very few projects still going on in metropolitan Chicago."

Quinn also praised the Rush Transformation's emphasis on environmental sustainability, specifically citing many of the project's green features, including the use of recycled building materials and various water conservation initiatives. "This expansion is going to be done in a sustainable, 21st-century way," he said. "This is going to be the first full-service green hospital we have in the state of Illinois."

In addition, Quinn spoke about Rush University's importance as an educational institution. "It's one of our most treasured institutions as far as teaching nurses. They also have wonderful programs for doctors and other health care professionals," he said.



Larry Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO, speaks with Illinois Governor Pat Quinn during Quinn's visit to the Medical Center.

Prior to the press conference, Quinn received a tour of the Medical Center from Larry Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO. The governor told the crowd at the press conference that he had visited Rush in

the past as a patient. "The care was excellent. I was so impressed by the doctors and nurses and all the employees," Quinn said. "They really had a patient approach to carrying out their mission." •

RUSH VENDOR FAIR OPENS DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

More than 150 people representing nearly 100 businesses in the building trades attended Rush University Medical Center's second vendor fair for minority-owned and women-owned businesses, held on April 3 on the Rush campus. The event enabled representatives of these businesses, drawn mainly from the immediate area around Rush, to network with Rush's contractors and learn about subcontracting opportunities for projects associated with the Rush Transformation.

Rush's hiring goals for the \$900 million campus renovation project call for 25 percent of the total adjusted contract amounts of transformation construction work to be performed by minority-owned businesses and 5 percent to be completed by women-owned businesses. The April event and the first vendor fair, held last September, are a part of Rush's overall effort to achieve those goals.

"As the largest non-governmental employer on Chicago's West Side, Rush has both the ability and the responsibility to provide economic opportunity to our surrounding community and to



Members of local construction businesses listen to a presentation during the Rush vendor fair.

make sure that the people helping us build our new facilities reflect that community's diversity," says Terry Peterson, Rush's vice president of government affairs. "It is a responsibility we take seriously, and the vendor fairs are part of our effort to inform nearby firms how they can partner with Rush and our contractors in this effort."

During the fair, executives of Rush's construction manager, Power/Jacobs,

provided an overview of a dozen subcontracting opportunities that would be open for bid in the near future, including a general trades package budgeted between \$35 and \$45 million. Representatives of Rush's contractors staffed booths to meet with potential subcontractors and answer questions. Everyone who attended the fair received copies of the contractors' contact information and a schedule of the projects coming up for bid.

Peterson and Alderman Robert Fioretti of the 2nd Ward, spoke at the event, as did Jesse Smart from office of 27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr. Both the 2nd and 27th wards include a portion of the Rush campus. Other speakers included representatives of Rush's program to hire and train residents from the aldermanic wards immediately surrounding the Medical Center to work on the construction projects. •

KNEE CARTILAGE TRANSPLANT PATIENT CLIMBS MT. EVEREST

EXPEDITION RAISES FUNDS FOR ORTHOPEDIC RESEARCH AT RUSH

A college football injury had laid John Golden low for many years, but physicians at Rush enabled him to reach new heights. This spring, Golden set out to climb Mt. Everest — and raise funds for orthopedic research and training at Rush in the process. Climbing on a transplanted knee, he came within a little more than 3,000 feet of the top of the world's tallest mountain before bad weather and an injury forced an end to his expedition.

By the time he was 38 years old, Golden had more than 15 surgeries on his knees (he's lost count), had spent nearly two years on crutches and was in constant, severe pain. Doctors told him he should buy a ranch house because his knees were too damaged for him even to climb stairs.

"I decided I've got to fix this," says Golden, 43, the chief information officer for Chicago-based CNA Insurance. "I have two young kids. I want to be able to play with them in the backyard."

After conducting a national search, Golden came to Rush and met with Brian Cole, MD, MBA, professor of orthopedics and head of the Rush Cartilage Restoration Center, where physician-researchers have pioneered safer, faster and less expensive ways to help patients reclaim lost mobility and to eliminate their pain. In May of 2005, Cole performed a double transplant to replace cartilage in Golden's left knee and lower leg. Thanks to this procedure, Golden was able to resume normal life activities like walking, climbing stairs and bicycling without pain.

After nine months of physical therapy, Golden felt ready for a

challenge and asked Cole if he could climb a mountain — something he'd never done even when he had healthy knees. "I said yes," Cole recalls. "At the time, I thought he meant a bluff in Wisconsin."

Instead, Golden consulted famed mountain climber Ed Viesturs in order to climb Mt. Rainier in Washington, which rises 14,410 feet above sea level. Viesturs is the only American to climb the world's 14 tallest peaks without supplemental oxygen. In September of 2007, Golden reached the peak at the end of a 10-hour climb that began in sub-zero temperatures and high wind.

"When I reached the summit, I broke down emotionally," Golden says. "It was the greatest feeling. I stood up there with my hands up, thinking 'I can't believe I did this.'"

Golden then set his sights even higher, and decided to climb Mt. Everest, located in Nepal and Tibet. The world's tallest peak, it rises to a height variously measured between 29,017 and 29,038 feet above sea level.

To prepare for his expedition, he embarked on a yearlong training regimen, during which he climbed an average of one mountain a month. He even recruited Cole and his assistant, Kyle Pilz, to join him on the 9,127-foot ascent of Mt. Shuksan in Washington.

"I thought, if he can do this, I should be able to do it, too," Cole says. "The climb was a life-changing experience. It was a physical and emotional challenge, but whenever I felt like complaining, I would just look at John and how he moved and climbed on that knee. Seeing that, any thought of complaining was not even conceivable."

The appreciation is mutual. "I hope the climb gave Brian a

deserved sense of appreciation for the great work that he did and that it will inspire him to even take it further," Golden says.

Now Golden is using his Everest adventure to draw attention to the orthopedic programs at Rush and generate financial support for them. Golden and Cole have established the LiveActive Fund for Orthopedic Research and Education at Rush. They helped organize and spoke at "Reaching the Summit for Orthopedic Research," an event held at Rush in March that was attended by about 180 people, including patients of Cole's and their families, friends and colleagues of Golden's, and members of mountain climbing organizations. The event, which included a silent auction, netted more than \$40,000.

Golden also sought contributions to Rush for each foot of Mt. Everest he would climb. As of mid-April, total pledges and gifts to date from Golden's network and other sources equal nearly \$150,000.

In April, he embarked on his Everest expedition. On Sunday, May 10, Golden and fellow mountain climber John Shea climbed from camp 2 to camp 3 on Mount Everest during a 10 1/2 hour climb, ascending 4,500 feet to an elevation of 26,000 feet. Climbers usually only advance up the mountain one camp at a time, resting overnight at each one, but Golden and Shea pursued an aggressive strategy to take advantage of a narrow window of good weather for climbing.

Ahead of them lay the final ascent to the peak of Everest, but by the time they reached the camp, strong winds were blowing. The next morning it was clear the winds were too great to make the final push to the



John Golden climbing Ama Dablam, a Himalyan mountain in Nepal, in September of last year as part of his training for the Mt. Everest expedition.

summit. On the way down the climbers were caught in a storm, and Golden fell, cracking three ribs. Overcoming his injuries and the whiteout conditions on the mountain, he and Shea made it safely back to base camp, but his injuries brought an end to his Everest expedition.

Despite the harrowing and disappointing conclusion, Golden found his expedition thrilling, and he hopes it will inspire others. "I was given the greatest gift," he says of his extraordinary recovery and equally extraordinary effort. "I wanted to do something to create awareness about what can happen when the great doctors at Rush connect with people; to make funds available so that Rush can do more research; and to watch people like Dr. Cole and others work miracles like they did with me." •

Golden has posted an account and photos of his climb online at www.goldenexpedition.com. The Discovery Channel will broadcast a program about his expedition in November.

COLLABORATION ACROSS DEPARTMENTS HELPS TO SECURE RUSH UNIVERSITY'S RE-ACCREDITATION

After 18 months of dedicated work by approximately 200 people, Rush University achieved a critical goal last December, when the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) Institutional Actions Council voted to continue Rush University's accreditation.

"Rush University exemplifies a very vibrant educational, research and patient care organization. New and innovative ideas are being practiced, and leading edge technologies are utilized and being developed," the HLC report says. "Rush University and Rush University Medical Center provide a dynamic learning environment for 1,600 medical, nursing, health science, and graduate students."

Accreditation is formal recognition of the quality of an educational program or institution. It verifies that a university has the resources, policies and people to offer whatever programs it chooses. Therefore, the accreditation review process examines academic offerings, student and faculty life and financial, administrative and interpersonal factors across the university.

Behind the Re-accreditation Process

"Re-accreditation is about applying standards of quality to a university," explains Lois Halstead, PhD, RN, vice provost and vice president, Rush University. "It's similar to the Joint Commission visiting the hospital."

Halstead describes the two-part accreditation process as being very rigorous. The university first must perform a self-study, which is an evaluation of how well the university is meeting its own goals and how to implement changes or plans for improvements. After the self-study report is submitted, the HLC then visits the school and interviews faculty, staff and students. This visit typically takes place every 10 years.

"The HLC provides us with criteria, but they don't tell us exactly what they're looking for or give examples," Halstead says. "The committee looked at the criteria

and interpreted what it meant and then set out to prove how Rush met that criteria. We did this through numerous surveys and focus groups."

The self-study was led by a 10-member steering committee, which included the Medical Center's president, Rush University's provost, the deans of the four Rush University colleges, the director of the library and representatives from the Office of Philanthropy, the Board of Overseers and the student body. The committee's work was supplemented by seven workgroups, each chaired by a faculty member and made up of faculty, staff and students. Five of those workgroups focused on the HLC's criteria (mission and integrity; preparing for the future; student learning and effective teaching; acquisition, discovery and application of knowledge; and engagement and service). The other two focused on two areas that had been identified as needing improvement by the 1998 site visitors: the Graduate College and general education requirements.

"Each group took a hard look at the places in the university where Rush excels. It looked at certain strengths we may have forgotten or taken for granted and looked to address areas where challenges and improvements were needed," Halstead says. "They also answered the concerns of the HLC site visitors from the 1998 visit."

Another key factor in the university receiving reaccreditation was the work of the Rush University Higher Learning Commission Coordinating Committee, which coordinated the communication regarding the progress of a self-study report, a comprehensive evaluation that examined the strengths of Rush University as well as the areas that need improvement. This report was required in preparation for the HLC evaluation team visit. The teamwork and cooperation among this committee resulted in the group receiving a Team of the



The Rush University Higher Learning Commission Coordinating Committee: (left to right) Mary K. Krause, MS; Rosemarie Suhayda, PhD, RN; Lois Halstead, PhD, RN; Debra Gallagher; and David Barnett, PhD. Not pictured: William Karnoscak, MLIS.

Quarter award during the first quarter of fiscal year 2008.

What Re-Accreditation Revealed

For a better understanding of what the self-study involved, consider the criteria of mission and integrity. The self-study states, "The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff and students."

The mission and integrity workgroup found a strength to be that "Rush upholds and protects its integrity through extensive required training, a comprehensive compliance program and a commitment to ethical conduct by all members of the community."

As for challenges in this area, the workgroup determined, "further efforts are needed to keep faculty

better informed of administrative issues and decisions. Efforts are also needed to increase faculty involvement in governance activities."

Halstead credits the interaction that the HLC survey group had with Rush students, faculty and staff as a key to the university receiving re-accreditation. "People met voluntarily at 7 a.m. to talk about the university. It was all very positive," she says. "The honesty, loyalty and positive nature of the Rush community is what got us re-accreditation. It was a true collaboration with students, faculty, alumni and staff."

Halstead is quick to add that while the university received a "sterling" report, the university can't be complacent. "A good institution believes it can always do better," she says. "We must keep raising the bar." •

WHAT'S NEXT?

The re-accreditation process never quite ends. Going forward, the university must submit a report next summer about its assessment program and its strategic plans. To help prepare this report, the University Assessment Council was created. This new committee is working with University Assessment and Student Learning to put Rush University's assessment plan into operation and will oversee preparation of that portion of the report to the HLC.

Workgroups for the university strategic planning process now are working to collect data and to make recommendations for strategies to achieve the university's objectives. The plan should be completed well before the summer deadline.

FIRST MULTIDISCIPLINARY CENTER FOR THE TREATMENT OF ASTHMA OPENS IN THE MIDWEST

Rush has opened a multidisciplinary center in the Midwest for the treatment of asthma, addressing a chronic respiratory disease that affects 22 million Americans, including 6 million children. Launched by the Section of Allergy and Immunology in May, the new Rush University Asthma Center brings together expertise in clinical care, patient education, and research in an intensive effort to improve the overall health and well-being of asthma patients of all ages. The multidisciplinary team includes allergists, pulmonologists, gastroenterologists, and women's health, sports medicine and sleep medicine specialists.

"Asthma is a complex disease that takes a heavy toll on patients, families and society," says Mary Kay Tobin, MD, allergy/asthma specialist and managing director of the asthma center. "But there are ways to improve outcomes for asthma patients, and that is by taking a multidisciplinary approach that incorporates state-of-the-art diagnostic technology and treatment, education in self-care and basic and clinical research to advance new therapies."

The disease varies widely. In some individuals, asthma is characterized by chronic respiratory impairment. In others, it is an intermittent illness marked by episodic symptoms that may result from a number of triggering events, including upper respiratory infection, stress, airborne allergens, air pollutants (such as smoke or traffic fumes) or exercise. In children, asthma sometimes occurs only at night.

Symptoms can be mild or severe or even unresponsive to treatment. Sinusitis, irritable bowel syndrome, sleep problems, gastroesophageal reflux and other disorders may accompany asthma.

Clinical care at Rush's new asthma center starts with a comprehensive evaluation by specialists in allergy and pulmonary medicine that incorporates diagnostics, therapeutics and preventive care, all in a patient-friendly environment. The initial visit includes individualized diagnostic tests; an assessment of environmental factors that might be contributing to the illness at home,

daycare or school; treatment; and preventive care. The physician prescribes an action plan, which includes medication prescriptions and one-on-one instruction to help patients learn to cope with their disease through preventive and other measures.

If necessary, the center brings in other specialists for consultations, such as otolaryngologists and gastroenterologists. The center also coordinates any needed tests, such as an exhaled nitric oxide test to help quantify the level of active inflammation in patients over the age of five. A state-of-the-art impulse oscillometry system at Rush allows physicians to test lung function in younger children.

In the return visit two weeks later, the physician reviews the test results and modifies the action plan, if necessary. The patient may receive referrals for a home visit, pest control and school programs, as well as further individual and group instruction to reinforce lessons in self-care and prevention.



Mary Kay Tobin, MD, managing director of the Rush University Asthma Center.

"With a multidisciplinary approach, we can greatly improve the outcomes for our patients," says Robert Balk, MD, director of pulmonary and critical care medicine. "That means fewer emergency room visits and hospitalizations, fewer missed days at school and work — and improved quality of life." •

The Rush University Asthma Center is located in suite 117 of the Professional Office Building. The phone number is (312) 942-6296.

RUSH MEDICAL STUDENTS RECEIVE SCHWEITZER FELLOWSHIPS WHILE FELLOWS FOR LIFE ARE HONORED

Rush University Medical Center students Curtis Calvert, Katherine Garlo and Taranee Wangsatorntanakhun were accepted to the prestigious Schweitzer Fellowship Program for 2009-2010. These three join 32 new fellows from health and human disciplines at the areas' top schools.

Schweitzer fellows follow in the footsteps of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning physician and humanitarian Albert Schweitzer, MD, by developing and implementing innovative year-long direct service projects with a lasting impact on the health of underserved communities. Each fellow partners with a local agency and devotes more than 200 hours of service. The program encourages and cultivates fellows to develop leadership skills and to dedicate themselves to lives of community service.

Calvert, Rush University College of Nursing, will provide type II diabetes self-management education to older adults on the west side of Chicago.

Garlo, Rush University College of Medicine, will implement a program that builds independence and empowers elderly African-Americans of Chicago's West Side.

The program will focus on maintaining health and strengthening social support.

Wangsatorntanakhun, Rush University College of Nursing, will conduct patient education classes for uninsured residents around the Old Irving Park Free Community Clinic. Her classes will help local residents manage their diabetes and hypertension and empower them to make educated, informed decisions regarding their health.

Jermaine McGill and Robert Redwood, Rush students and Schweitzer fellows who have completed their year of service, recently were honored and are now fellows for life. Prominent civic and community leaders, health and social service professionals and university faculty from throughout Chicago gathered at Northwestern Memorial Hospital's Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center on April 16 to honor the positive contributions made by the 2008-2009 fellows.

McGill, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences, addressed the obesity and diabetes epidemic through diet and nutrition education and community activities at KIPP Ascend Charter School on Chicago's West Side.

Redwood, Rush University Medical College, improved the nutritional habits of low income Latino families by providing nutritional education, healthy recipes and personal dietary counseling at two clinics — Pilsen Community Pediatrics and Community Health Clinic in Humboldt Park. •

RUSH PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

Rush has appointed **Tiffany K. Hor, MD**, as an endocrinologist in the Section of Endocrinology and as an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. Hor received her medical degree from the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine. She completed a residency in internal medicine at Rush and went on to complete a fellowship in endocrinology and metabolism in the combined program of Rush and John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County.

Rush has appointed **Wilber M. Rapier, PhD**, as chairperson of the Department of Perfusion Technology at Rush University College of Health Sciences. Rapier has served on the faculty of perfusion technology since 2004. Prior to Rush, he was an assistant professor in the physician assistant program of the College of Health Professionals at the University of Detroit Mercy. Rapier also served as a chief medical officer for active duty combat battalions in the U.S. Army.

Andrew D. Ruthberg, MD, has joined University Rheumatologists as director of the Rush Rheumatoid Arthritis Clinic and has been named an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine. Ruthberg received his medical degree from Brown University in Providence, R.I. He completed his internship and residency at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. and his rheumatology fellowship at Brown University.

Rush has appointed **Vincent C. Traynelis, MD**, as director of the Neurosurgery Spine Service and vice chairperson and professor in the Department of Neurosurgery. Traynelis, an internationally known neurosurgeon, brings valuable clinical and leadership talents to the Medical Center. He is the past president of the Congress of Neurological Surgeons and the Cervical Spine Research Society, and past chairperson of the Joint Section of Disorders of the Spine and Peripheral Nerves.

Prior to Rush, Traynelis was an associate director of the Iowa Spine Research Center. He served as a consultant for the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Iowa City and was appointed professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Iowa College of Medicine where he taught, lectured and supervised student research and doctoral theses.

KUDOS

A table reading with actors of the play *Of Jewels and Dream*, written by **Sarah H. Ailey, PhD, RN-BC**, associate professor, Department of Community, Systems and Mental Health Nursing, was held at Victory Gardens Theater in March. *Of Jewels and Dream* is an eight-actor, two act, full-length drama set in Chicago during the early 2000s. The play is about Ed, an African-American man with Down syndrome, his family, and the struggles for independence, jobs and romance for a group of people who have developmental disabilities and who work together in a sheltered workshop.

Bernard Bach, MD, a sports medicine specialist with Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush, has received an honorary membership in the National Athletic Trainers' Association, an exclusive honor reserved for individuals who are not certified athletic trainers but have made significant contributions to the athletic training profession. Bach, a former team physician for the Chicago White Sox and Chicago Bulls, is president of the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine and was inducted into the Illinois Athletic Trainers Hall of Fame in 1995.

Jamil Bayram, MD, has been named the new chair of the Emergency Preparedness Committee (EPC), replacing Dino Rumoro, DO, who is stepping down because of other responsibilities in the Office of Transformation and the Department of Emergency Medicine. As the new EPC chair, Bayram will provide organization-wide leadership for emergency management activities, focusing on preparedness, response, recovery



Tiffany K. Hor, MD



Wilber M. Rapier, PhD



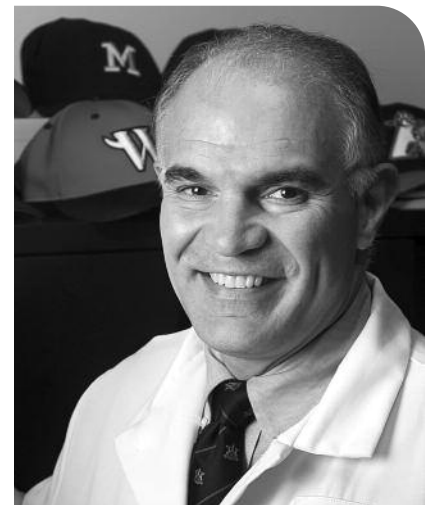
Andrew D. Ruthberg, MD



Vincent C. Traynelis, MD



Sarah H. Ailey, PhD, RN-BC



Bernard Bach, MD

and mitigation. Some of the key topics the committee will address will include development of a hospital-wide emergency operations plan, Joint Commission readiness, and implementation of and training for the hospital incident command system.

Robyn L. Golden, LCSW, director of older adult programs at Rush, was invited to be a member of the American Medical Association's Care of the Aging Expert Panel Advisory Committee and the Institute of Medicine's "Retooling for an Aging

America: Building the Health Care Workforce" Implementation Alliance. She also was appointed to the Health and Medicine Policy Research Group's board of directors and the National Quality Forum's consensus development process on care coordination.

In other news, Golden received the prestigious Edith Abbott Award from the University of Chicago's School of Social Service Administration (SSA). This award honors University of Chicago alumna



Jamil Bayram, MD



Gordon Trenholme, MD



Wound Care Center (WCC) at Rush Oak Park Hospital: (left to right) Dan Greenlee, senior vice president, Diversified Clinical Services (DCS); Donald Nash, MD, medical director, WCC; Chris Evans, RN, clinical manager, WCC; Jeff Nelson, CEO, DCS; Bruce Elegant, Rush Oak Park Hospital president and CEO; and Michelle Flaherty, program director, WCC.



Rush employees and students show their support for the American Heart Association's Wear Red Day.

who have earned an AM or PhD in SSA and have shown extraordinary success and achievement during the span of their career in social work.

Chicago United named **Beverly Huckman**, associate vice president for equal opportunity, a 2008 Business Leaders Program Champion during its annual meeting in March. Huckman received this honor because of her contributions to Chicago United's overall strategic plans, initiatives and successes. Chicago United encourages companies across the city to create and sustain diversity at all levels within their organizations. Huckman has worked with the organization since Rush became a member back in the late 1990s.

Marsha Mulbarger, RN, MS, director, adult critical care nursing, Department of Emergency Medicine, has received a 2009 Circle of Excellence Award from the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

These awards recognize and showcase excellent outcomes in the care of acutely and critically ill patients and their families.

The Black AIDS Institute honored **Kimberly Y. Smith, MD**, associate professor of medicine in the Department of Infectious Diseases, for her HIV/AIDS research at its eighth annual Heroes in the Struggle gala reception and awards presentation. The event, held in Los Angeles in February, honored pioneering women who have demonstrated incredible commitments to ending the AIDS pandemic in black communities. Smith's major areas of interest include immune-based therapies for HIV disease and issues related to African-Americans and HIV disease. She is an active investigator and chair of several studies in the AIDS Clinical Trials Group.

The Metro Foundation honored **Gordon Trenholme, MD**, with the

inaugural, In Support of Infectious Disease Education and Outreach (INSIDER) Award last fall. Trenholme is the James Lowenstine Professor of Internal Medicine, director of the Section of Infectious Diseases and director of Rush's infectious disease fellowship program. The INSIDER Award is the Metro Foundation's highest honor, given annually to honor an individual's professional and personal accomplishments in the infectious diseases community.

The Chicago Health Executives Forum (CHEF) honored Health Systems Management (HSM) faculty during its 33rd annual meeting in February. CHEF is the largest local chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE) in the United States. **Bruce Campbell, DrPH, FACHE**, received the Career Achievement Award. **Diane Howard, PhD, FACHE**, received the Innovations and Service Excellence

Award. **Andrew Garman, PsyD, MS**, received a 2008 ACHE Chapter Merit Award. **Raymond J. Swisher, FACHE**, also received a 2008 ACHE Chapter Merit Award. HSM student **Tanja Pavlovic** received CHEF's 2009 Health Studies Student Leadership Award.

Rush employees and students came out in full force for the American Heart Association's (AHA) Wear Red Day on Feb. 6. People were encouraged to participate by wearing red to work and donating \$5 to help the AHA raise women's awareness of cardiovascular disease and empower women to reduce their risk. Rush joined the AHA and concerned companies and organizations across America in the fight against the No. 1 killer of women and men. To learn more about this national effort, please visit www.GoRedForWomen.org.

Diversified Clinical Services (DCS), Inc. has awarded the **Wound Care Center (WCC) at Rush Oak Park Hospital** its new Center of Distinction Award. This award recognizes 10 years of high quality care and exceptional performance by the nurses and physicians at the WCC. The WCC was one of only five centers out of the 300 hospitals the DCS measured that met the award requirements. It continues to place among the top 2 percent of DCS wound care centers in the country. DCS is a privately held company that partners with approximately 300 hospitals nationwide primarily to provide outpatient wound care. •

Rush University Medical Center offers an ongoing series of free community events led by Rush experts. Registration is requested for most events. To register, please call the Rush physician referral service at ext. 2-5555 or (888) 352-RUSH (7874).

NEW DIRECTIONS IN ALZHEIMER'S TREATMENT AND CAREGIVING

Tuesday, July 21, 6 – 8 p.m.

Armour Academic Center, Room 994

Are you or someone you love experiencing Alzheimer's disease? Do you need information on reducing memory loss, disability and caregiver burdens associated with Alzheimer's? Join members of the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center and Rush University College of Nursing as they discuss current research involving people with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. The talk is designed to address your needs and will include a question and answer session.

FROM HEARTBURN TO ESOPHAGEAL CANCER: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 6 – 8 p.m.

Armour Academic Center, Room 994

While there is no determined cause for esophageal cancer, it is known that untreated heartburn can lead to Barrett's esophagus, a precancerous condition. Join experts at Rush to get your questions answered and to learn how to lower your risk for developing esophageal cancer, as well as the latest treatments available for it.

RUSH UNIVERSITY GETS HIGH MARKS IN U.S. NEWS GRAD SCHOOLS SURVEY

Rush University is well represented in the 2010 edition of "America's Best Graduate Schools" survey published in the May issue of *U.S. News & World Report* magazine. This year's rankings were unchanged from last year. Eight programs in the Rush College of Nursing and three programs in the College of Health Sciences are ranked among the top 25 in the country.

"These high rankings demonstrate the mission of Rush University to teach, study and provide the highest quality health care. We continue to improve the University's educational programs to strengthen both our students' futures and the future of health care in the United States," says Thomas A. Deutsch, MD, provost, Rush University.

The Rush College of Nursing ranked 19th among the 390 nursing

colleges with graduate programs and ranked in the top 10 in the nation in the following seven nursing specialties:

- Nurse Anesthesia – 3rd
- Community/Public Health – 5th
- Psychiatric/Mental Health – 6th
- Pediatric Nurse Practitioner – 7th
- Adult Nurse Practitioner – 9th
- Gerontological Nurse Practitioner – 9th
- Family Nurse Practitioner – 10th

The Rush College of Health Sciences earned placement in the following three disciplines:

- Doctor of Audiology (AuD) - 9th
- Master's in Health System Management - 25th
- Master's in Speech-Language Pathology - 18th

ORTHOPEDICS EXPERTS FROM RUSH TRAVEL TO INDIA TO PERFORM KNEE REPLACEMENTS

Orthopedic surgeon Craig J. Della Valle, MD, associate professor of orthopedic surgery at Rush, and operating room nurse Denise Feldman, RN, traveled to Pune, India, in January with the not-for-profit volunteer medical services organization Operation Walk Chicago in order to provide comprehensive, state-of-the-art knee replacements at no cost for impoverished patients with debilitating joint disease.

The mission of Operation Walk Chicago is to improve the quality of life of disadvantaged patients around the world by reducing disability from advanced joint disease. In addition to providing free surgery, the not-for-profit organization educates local orthopedic surgeons and their health care teams; assists in-country health care systems in developing public health and patient care programs for reducing arthritis-related disability; and establishes educational fellowships to foster ongoing education and collaboration between the United States and host countries.

Feldman and Della Valle joined 50 other medical professionals who performed approximately 60 knee replace-

ments for patients who were unable to afford the services.

"The complexity of the patient cases was high because arthritis care is limited and given a 'back seat' to other health problems in certain countries. As a result, those with arthritis often suffer from immense pain throughout their life as joint replacements are generally not an option," Della Valle says.

Feldman regards Operation Walk as one of the best experiences she's had in her nursing career. "Although we were there for only a week, everyone made us feel at home and was very grateful to have us there," she says. "It was an amazing feeling to see the first patient from Sunday walk with assistance around the hospital with a beaming smile by the end of the week."

All supplies, including joint implants, sterilization and radiology equipment, antibiotics, drugs and dressings are donated. Operation Walk Chicago is in the process of planning a possible trip to Egypt next year. For more information, visit www.operationwalkchicago.com.

RUSH DOCTORS TRAVEL TO DC TO LOBBY FOR RESEARCH FUNDS

Annabelle S. Volgman, MD, associate professor of medicine and medical director, Rush Heart Center for Women; and Lynne Braun, PhD, nurse practitioner, Rush Heart Center for Women, traveled to Washington, D.C., this spring on behalf of the American Heart Association to lobby Congress for more funding for heart and stroke research and prevention programs. Volgman and Braun met with both Illinois senate offices and members of the House of Representatives, including Illinois Rep. Danny Davis.

In related news, Volgman also traveled to Starved Rock State Park to speak to the Coalition of Women's Legislators about the importance of passing House Bill 2244, which would establish a network of specialist stroke centers in Illinois, allowing ambulances to take patients to those facilities rather than nearby hospitals. The Illinois House passed the bill, which now awaits Gov. Pat Quinn's approval. The bill's goal is to minimize the damage caused by stroke.

Annabelle S. Volgman, MD, with Illinois Rep. Danny Davis.



SPECIAL FOUNDERS DAY ISSUE NEWSROUNDS

August 2009
Volume 48, Number 4

Rush University Medical Center

RUSH UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER
RANKED AMONG
THE TOP HOSPITALS
BY U.S. NEWS &
WORLD REPORT

IN THIS ISSUE: Founders Day Award Winners and Employee Anniversaries

Employee of the Year

COMPASSIONATE CARE AT THE CORE OF NURSE'S APPROACH TO PATIENTS

In his five years as a staff nurse in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU), Joel Frens, RN, has seen many patients. With each one, Frens has tried making a lasting impact on that patient's quality of care.

One particular patient knows that Frens' commitment to compassionate care goes above and beyond. Greg*, a resident of western Michigan and a Michigan State University (MSU) alumnus, came to Rush last summer for a heart transplant. Greg was a huge MSU Spartans fan, and every Saturday, SICU staff would find him adorned in his Spartan gear watching the team play football on television. After Greg became the recipient of Rush's 10th heart transplant, medical staff had to take away his MSU paraphernalia to prevent infection.



Greg (left), a Rush patient, and Joel Frens, RN, meet "Sparty."

To help lift the patient's spirits, Frens contacted MSU to see if they would send some new sports gear for Greg to wear. As it turned out, the Spartans were traveling to

Chicago the upcoming weekend to play Northwestern. Frens arranged for the team mascot, "Sparty," to make a surprise visit to Greg. "Greg was completely caught off guard,"

Frens explains. "It was a great moment."

Even greater is the fact that Greg has recovered from his heart transplant and now can watch the Spartan games from the comfort of his home.

This story speaks volumes about Frens' work as a critical care nurse. It's one of the many reasons why he won the Employee of the Year Award. Donna Stel, RN, SICU, who nominated Frens for the award, says his quality of care consistently exceeds expectations. "He went the extra mile to help Greg, who gave the unit a gold star satisfaction score," Stel says. "He's an excellent patient advocate and an outstanding critical nurse and leader. Joel truly demonstrates the I CARE values." •

**Due to privacy issues, the patient's last name has not been included.*

RUSH I CARE / Count ALL-EMPLOYEE SURVEY BEGINS SEPTEMBER 21



Rush will be conducting an all-employee survey from Sept. 21 to Oct. 2 in an effort to make our workplace even better. This survey is not just an

exercise; managers will develop and implement specific action plans as a result of what employees recommend.

The Medical Center is using an outside company, endorsed by the American Hospital Association, HR Solutions, to manage the survey and keep it completely confidential. The survey will give employees the opportunity to share their thoughts about what Rush has been doing right and what Rush can do better to create the best work environment

possible. It is a chance to see results and lasting change, so please take the time to make your voice heard.

Rush's goal is 100 percent employee participation. The more people who participate, the better we will be able to measure employee engagement and commitment, compare data against other academic medical centers and make changes where necessary. The survey will be repeated every two years so we can compare data from previous years.

"Everything we accomplish is due to the talents and efforts of the people working at Rush, and we want you to help us plan for our future," says Larry Goodman, MD, president and CEO. "This new survey will be a key opportunity for

employees to let me and the rest of Rush leadership to know confidentially what you think we can do to improve care for our patients and make Rush a better place for you to work. Please take the time to complete the survey."

The survey will cover the following areas:

- Overall job satisfaction
- Concern for patient care
- Pay satisfaction
- Benefits satisfaction
- Manager-employee relationships
- Communication
- Human resources policies
- Concern for employees
- Training and development
- Rush's strategy/mission

The survey will be on the Web; however, paper and pencil surveys will also be available. Rush employees who have Rush e-mail will receive an invitation to complete the survey via e-mail. Employees also have the option to go directly to the HR Solutions site and complete the survey from any computer. Various opportunities to complete the survey on paper will be available for employees who have limited access to a computer at Rush.

"By participating in the survey, employees will help Rush remain true to the I CARE values. Employee survey responses will be completely confidential," says Sheri Marker, vice president,

continued on back page

Team of the Year

COMPLEX ISSUE CALLS FOR COLLABORATIVE TEAM EFFORT

Improving the system for ordering and administering pediatric chemotherapy was a high priority for the Department of Pediatrics. It was necessary to update the outdated system of triplicate forms – and a lack of computer access was slowing down patient care.

The pediatric chemotherapy safety group — a team consisting of administrators, pharmacists, nurses and doctors — worked tirelessly to improve the system while also addressing patient safety issues, an effort that earned them the Team of the Year Award.

When William Hayden, MD, became the pediatric safety officer almost two years ago, Paul Kent, MD, pediatric hematology/oncology, and Beth Shields, PharmD, clinical pharmacist, specialty supervisor pediatrics, came to him to discuss the need for a specific set of pediatric chemotherapy guidelines. They quickly created a team who either volunteered or were recommended based on their backgrounds. In addition to Kent and Shields, the team includes the



The pediatric chemotherapy safety group (left to right): Allen D. Korenblit, MD; Melissa Keller; Beth Shields, PharmD; Liz Vlaming-Giannakas; and Kathy Gast, RN.

Not pictured: Paul Kent, MD; Elizabeth Casseday, RN, BSN; William Hayden, MD; Matthew Kemper, PharmD; and Chandala Watson.

following members: Elizabeth Casseday, RN, BSN, clinical nurse coordinator, pediatrics; Kathleen Gast, RN, MSN, senior consultant, quality improvement; Melissa Keller, nurse coordinator, pediatric hematology/oncology; Matthew Kemper, PharmD, director, clinical operations; Allen D. Korenblit, MD, pediatric hematology/oncology; and Elizabeth Vlaming-Giannakas, nurse coordinator, pediatric hematology/oncology; and Chandala Watson,

“The complexity of chemotherapy orders may be frustrating and daunting, but each member brings unique skills and talents to the table.”

— William Hayden, MD

nurse coordinator, pediatric hematology/oncology.

The team developed a computer-based system to process, monitor and deliver pediatric chemotherapy. The system has saved pediatric chemotherapy patients hours of downtime waiting for medications. The system also is accessible to allow more staff to view the complex orders, reducing the chance for drug errors. According to Kent, the team created this “e-system” of writing chemotherapy orders in advance. “We put the chemotherapy orders on a dedicated computer drive that only a few have access to, including the nurses, physicians and pharmacists,” he explains. “Each section has to be signed or dated electronically and then passed on to the next person on the care team for review. The sections also include the exact

protocol with relevant doses. It saves time, and it reduces errors.”

“The complexity of chemotherapy orders may be frustrating and daunting, but each member brings unique skills and talents to the table,” says Hayden, who nominated the team for their award. “When the team first came together, it was amazing to see how they were able to tease out all the issues involved in such a relatively short time and come up with rational solutions.”

“As a group they have confronted, managed and fixed the single most complex and challenging pediatric issue I have ever encountered in four decades of practicing medicine,” Hayden adds. “They’re a great team. They deserve to be commended for their work to protect our patients’ well-being and our hospital’s reputation of delivering quality care.” •

NEWSROUNDS

August 2009

Have a news item or story idea for *NewsRounds*? Contact the editor at: Phone: 942-5582 Fax: 563-4149 E-mail: anne_burgeson@rush.edu

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Please note: All physicians featured in this publication are on the medical staff of Rush University Medical Center. Some of the physicians are in private practice and, as independent practitioners, are not employees or agents of Rush University Medical Center.

Managers of the Year

SICU MANAGER INSPIRES THROUGH HER PASSION FOR NURSING

For more than 30 years, Mary Jane Tully, RN, BSN, has been an inspiration to those around her at Rush. As the nursing unit director in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit (SICU), Tully's contributions are many.

When her unit was having a higher than normal rate of skin pressure ulcers (37 percent), she collaborated with a former nurse in wound ostomy continence consultation service to create a skin care team. In a year's time, the prevalence of pressure ulcers decreased dramatically to 0 and since then has remained at or below the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators' 75th percentile. The steps taken to achieve this reduction were costly, involving monthly data collection and extra work time, but Tully realized how important this initiative was and encouraged the team to proceed and make it work.

Under Tully's direction, the SICU also has achieved a significant decrease in hospital-acquired infections. "Mary

Jane's support has been instrumental in decreasing hospital-acquired infections," says Melissa Browning, RN, clinical nurse specialist, SICU. "She is more than just a manager. She's a visionary leader who promotes high quality patient care while supporting her staff."

Tully has taken to implementing many initiatives during her time in the SICU, including the promotion of open family visitation. Because the SICU is set up with four-bed rooms, limited visitation always has been the standard. However, Tully understood that allowing visitors more time with patients was the right thing to do for patient care, and she began to pursue the idea of open visitation.

Her approach was methodical. First, Tully found key supporters on various shifts and encouraged them to discuss the positives of open visitation with their co-workers. Then, at staff meetings, she started encouraging open visitation. "Mary Jane organized a multidisciplinary committee that promoted key initiatives needed to make open visitation a success, including the

creation of the visitors' brochure and a refurbished waiting room," Browning explains. "Because of Mary Jane's hard work, the change to open visitation, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., has truly been a success."

In recognition of her innovative and collaborative leadership and commitment to excellence, Tully was named manager of the year. Browning, who nominated Tully for the award, has worked with her for three-and-a-half years and credits her with helping Browning successfully transitioning to the SICU when she first started at Rush. Tully took the time to walk Browning to meetings and introduce her to everyone, knowing that an introduction was more than just an exchange of names but a way to create lasting relationships with colleagues.

"She immediately made me feel I was an important part of the team," Browning explains. "She has been nothing less than inspiring to me and others for her passion about the nursing profession and the warmth and support she provides to all her



Mary Jane Tully, RN, BSN

employees. Mary Jane is the type of leader we should all aspire to be like."

Tully describes her management style as encouraging and respectful, two components that lend themselves well to being an inspiration for others. "I firmly believe that my employees come to work with the intent to do their best," she explains. "I help them define what 'best' needs to be." •

PRAISE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS DEFINE GIBBONS' ROLE

In the two years she's been with Rush, Patricia Gibbons has accomplished much as a speech pathology coordinator in the Department of Communications Disorders and Sciences.

Gibbons has hired a staff of bright, engaged speech therapists; worked through a complex process to obtain patient treatment space within the Johnston R. Bowman Health Center (JRB); and collaborated with the Department of Marketing and Communications to develop a marketing brochure for speech-language pathology.

In reflection of these accomplishments, Gibbons was named manager of the year. Karen Lukaszewski, coordinator, Day Rehabilitation, JRB administration, nominated Gibbons for the award, describing her as someone who puts a human face to Rush's I

CARE values. "She manages to balance a broad spectrum of job responsibilities, ranging from direct patient care, to hiring and supervising, to program management and development," Lukaszewski says.

"By providing an atmosphere that encourages professionalism, independence and patient-centered care, Pat's leadership has made it possible for her employees to feel confident in their own abilities," Lukaszewski continues. "Her approach provides an excellent environment for continued professional growth and quality care."

Gibbons describes her approach to management as working to ensure that her team has what they need, whether it be enough staff or the appropriate types of training. She's also quick to point out that it's the people around her that make it possible for her and the department to excel at their work. "I have a really dedicated staff of speech pathologists," Gibbons explains. "There are so many people here at Rush who do so many

important things for patients throughout the hospital, not just in my department."

Janet Wilson, MSW, rehabilitation liaison in JRB, also nominated Gibbons, saying that she consistently shows strong collaborative skills in working with management and other disciplines within JRB. "Her personal commitment to excellence and collegial skills are evident in her daily interactions with patients and staff," Wilson observes.

Regardless of how busy she might be, Gibbons always finds time to work with her team, which ultimately leads to a better system of care for the patients. This approach also creates a more positive and productive work environment for her team of speech language pathologists.

One team member, Emily Poole, speech-language pathologist, Department of Communications Disorders and Sciences, describes Gibbons as an excellent manager and a tremendous advo-



Patricia Gibbons

cate. "The department has grown substantially under her guidance, not only in staffing but in equipment, training and collaboration," Poole says. "She is always willing to listen and brainstorm, and she's quick to celebrate success. We are a stronger and more cohesive team under her supervision and are so glad to have her as our very own." •

James A. Campbell, MD, Distinguished Service Award

MARKER TACKLES CHALLENGES, OFFERS SUPPORT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

After 13 years working as a compensation analyst and administrator, Lisa Pallotto was interested in broadening the scope of her responsibilities, but she felt unsure about working in an unfamiliar area. She got the encouragement she needed from Sheri Marker, vice president of human resources at Rush.

In the spring of last year, Marker approached Pallotto about applying for a position that had become open. “She came into my office and said, ‘We need a director of benefits. Would that be something you’d like to do?’” says Pallotto, who became director of compensation and benefits in May, 2008. “I had thought about it but wasn’t sure if I was ready. I had all those self-doubts, and here comes Sheri, setting the bar higher for me.”

Other Rush employees cite similar examples of Marker identifying opportunities for them to advance professionally and encouraging them to pursue them. “Sheri cares enough about her employees to help them figure out career opportunities,” says Pallotto, who has benefited from Marker’s mentoring ever since they first worked together in the mid-90s. “Whether it’s someone who works in environmental services or transport or someone who’s performing surgery, Sheri looks at things from the employee’s perspective and tries to do what’s right for both them and for Rush.”

In recognition of Marker’s long commitment to helping people achieve their full potential and the numerous special efforts she’s

made on behalf of the Medical Center, she was chosen to receive this year’s James A. Campbell, MD, Distinguished Service Award. Named for Rush’s first president and CEO, the Campbell award recognizes Rush employees for excellence in leadership and dedicated service to the Medical Center and our patients.

Marker joined Rush in 1983 as an employee relations consultant, and aside from a three-year departure in the mid-90s she has been at the Medical Center ever since. “I feel privileged to have started at Rush during the last few months that James Campbell was the CEO,” she recalls. “I was impressed that he took the time every week to welcome new staff during new employee orientation and impress upon them the importance of patient care, no matter what their individual role. I heard over and over how much people valued his ‘management by walking around’ style, which helped people to connect with him and with Rush in a very real and meaningful way.

“For me, that approach translates into looking at things from a variety of viewpoints. No matter what the conflict, dilemma or challenge is, I try to understand the issues from different perspectives, especially when making or recommending personnel decisions.”

Since becoming vice president in 2004, Marker and assistant vice president Jane Grady have led efforts to reorganize and expand the Department of Human Resources to provide more and better services for Rush employees. In response to employee surveys conducted by human resources, the Medical Center now pays for short-term and long-term disability for employees.



Sheri Marker with her son, Timothy Bednarz, at the Founders Day awards dinner.

Increases in financial support for employee continuing education, tuition reimbursement and the School at Work program have helped employees develop intellectually and professionally. Human resources supports the We Care program, which assists employees in financial need, and the You Care program, which provides grants for nonprofit organizations where Rush employees volunteer.

Beverly Huckman, associate vice president for equal opportunity, recalls that when Rush had the opportunity two years ago to be considered for the U.S. Department of Labor’s Exemplary Voluntary Efforts (EVE) Award, Marker spent long hours helping to prepare the Medical Center’s application. The effort resulted in Rush becoming the first Chicago organization in more than 10 years to receive the EVE Award, which recognizes federal contractors for

exceptional efforts to increase employment and educational opportunities for minorities, women, individuals with disabilities and veterans.

“Even though it wasn’t on anybody’s to-do list, she collaborated with me and others on the team to get it done. It didn’t matter that it took an extra effort,” Huckman says. “She has a strong commitment to diversity and inclusion, and it’s a joy to work with her in these areas.”

Marker attributes her dedication to a work environment at Rush that is uniquely collaborative and motivating. “No matter what support any one of us provides, it’s truly about patient care, both now and in the future,” she says. “I am very fortunate to work with a wonderfully diverse group of dedicated staff, in human resources and across all of Rush, who are passionate about what they do.” •

Patient Satisfaction Star Award

COMPASSIONATE ADMINISTRATOR HELPS IMPROVE PATIENT SATISFACTION SCORES IN THE OPERATING ROOM

The Rush operating room can see anywhere between 65 and 110 surgical cases a day. Keeping all these patients and their families as informed as possible is a job in itself.

Bevis Clark, operating room administrator, patient and family satisfaction, Department of Operating Room Support Services, personally visits at least 60 percent of these patients and their families to give them timely updates. He introduces himself, makes sure they know when surgery is scheduled to start, and updates them about any delays and explains why the delay is occurring.

"In the really long cases when the surgery is seven or eight hours, it can get difficult, but it's rewarding to give them peace of mind when they are angry or worried," Clark says. "I love doing what I do. I find it very rewarding when you can talk to patients and their families to provide them with help and comfort. The hardest part is when you don't have the information to update them."

Clark's attentiveness is mirrored in the praise he's received in patient evaluations. He received this year's Patient Satisfaction Star Award, which recognizes an employee whose name appears in two or more favorable patient evaluations. In the first quarter of calendar year 2009, patients' rating of how informed they were about procedure delays was the most improved category on the outpatient surgery patient survey.

Whenever there's a delay — whether it's because of emergency surgeries, a cancellation due to the patient having a cold or high blood pressure, or the scheduled surgeon delivering a baby — Clark sends apology letters, flowers or food coupons as a courtesy. "It surprises people, because in health care they don't expect that," he observes. In FY '09, Clark wrote more than 1,400 notes to say thank you or to apologize for a delay.

Taking the time to write a simple note can make a big difference to a patient. One patient wrote: "Mr. Clark, thank you for your note of apology and concern. That was something over and above what I expected. This has made me very glad I made a change and chose Rush University Medical Center. I was very



Bevis Clark (left) and R. Francis Narbone, RN.

impressed with the efficient and professional manner in which each person handled their job."

Another patient commented, "Bevis Clark went out of his way to help my wife and daughter. My procedure was delayed four hours, and he provided them with coupons for dinner and parking. He was a very nice man who also sent a note to us at home. I appreciated it."

With more than 20 years of customer service experience, Clark has a natural

way of talking to patients and their families to put them at ease. "Bevis has a heart that reaches out to patients. He understands what it's like to be separated from your loved ones — from your family," says R. Francis Narbone, RN, director of operating room and chief anesthetist. "He is an extraordinary human being — it comes naturally to him. I think that's why he's so successful. Everyone in the operating room is very proud of Bevis, and it's a well-deserved award." •

Henry P. Russe, MD, Humanitarian Award

HINRICHS' HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS TAKE MANY FORMS

May 12 was an eventful day for Brad Hinrichs, MBA, vice president for hospital operations and administrative vice president for transformation.

In the morning, he participated in a national press conference call announcing the results of the 2009 Healthcare Equality Index (HEI), an annual survey that evaluates the nation's hospitals and health centers on their policies and practices relative to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) patients, their families and their own employees. Rush was one of only 10 institutions in the country, and the only one in the Midwest, to receive a perfect rating in the survey.

That evening, Hinrichs received the Henry P. Russe, MD, Humanitarian Award during the Founders Day dinner, which was held in Room 500.

The two events are related. The Russe Award honors the memory and humanitarian efforts of its namesake — the dean of Rush Medical College and vice president of medical affairs from 1981 to his death in 1991 — and is given to members of the Rush staff who demonstrate an ongoing commitment to the well-being of others in their work. Hinrichs' involvement with the HEI reflects his long history of volunteerism and activism on behalf of others.

"It's very humbling to receive this award in a room full of Rush people who represent much better than I what it means to be a humanitarian," Hinrichs told the crowd after receiving the award. "I remember Henry Russe very well, and it is an incredible honor to be affiliated with such a wonderful man and role model of humanitarianism."

Hinrichs' own humanitarian efforts take many forms. He works with the Human Rights Campaign, an LGBT equal rights advocacy organization, and is a member of its leadership organization, the Federal Club. This volunteer effort carries over to his work with the Diversity



Brad Hinrichs, MBA, speaks at the Founders Day dinner after receiving the Russe Award.

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Russe Award

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Leadership Group (DLG) at Rush, established in 2007, which promotes diversity and inclusion within the Medical Center. As part of his work with the DLG, he worked with a dedicated team to coordinate Rush's participation in the HEI survey.

Inspired by his work with Rush's organ transplant program through the years, Hinrichs is also the executive sponsor of a Rush initiative to improve the organ donation process, in part by encouraging Medical Center employees to register to be organ donors. The effort included several donor information events held in conjunction with

the Gift of Hope Organ and Tissue Network this past April, which was National Donate Life Month.

He sets an example as a financial donor as well, giving generously to the Rush United Way campaign and celebrating his 35th anniversary as a Medical Center employee in 2007 by donating funds to establish the Bradley G. Hinrichs Team of the Year Endowment to pay tribute to outstanding Rush teams.

Hinrichs joined Rush in 1972 as a research assistant in hematology, where he was part of an early stem cell research team that contributed to the development of bone marrow transplant as a clinical therapy. In the mid-70s, he earned an MBA from Northwestern's Kellogg

School while working at Rush. He since has held numerous administrative positions and also has been a member of the faculty of Rush's health systems management program throughout its 30-year history, teaching, coaching and mentoring countless students along the way.

"He's worked with a whole bunch of people and taken them under his wing," says Robert DeCresce, MD, associate vice president, utilization management and chair of pathology, who chaired the committee of past Russe Award winners that selected Hinrichs for this year's honor.

DeCresce observes that Hinrichs' focus on helping others also

informs his work helping to plan and implement the Rush Transformation: "He's kept the idea in mind that it's not just about a new building, it's about how people work in the new building and how it affects the patient experience. Obviously, he's got to worry about the bricks and mortar, but he's really been focused on how it's going to work for patients, how it's going to work for the employees.

"No matter what Brad does, that's always his focus: What's it going to mean for the other person? How's it going to make a difference for him or her?"

DeCresce adds. "That's what the Russe award is really about." •

Alice Sachs Memorial Award

SACHS AWARD WINNER ADDS PERSONAL TOUCH TO CARE

The patient had been in Rush's surgical intensive care unit (SICU) for months, and it had become clear that she wasn't going to get well in time to attend her daughter's upcoming wedding.

When Kimberly Weber, RN, a weekend nurse in the SICU, heard about the situation, she offered to make a wedding gift for the patient to give to her daughter. Weber decorates picture frames with personalized scrapbooking materials as gifts for friends, and she created a personalized frame based on what the patient had told Weber about her daughter and her daughter's fiancé.

For repeatedly making a special effort to provide care with compassion and a personal touch, Weber was chosen to receive this year's Alice B. Sachs Award, which is given to an employee who consistently performs acts of kindness for Rush patients and their families. John Sachs, DDS, and his wife, Lois, established the award in 1982 in memory of his

"Anything we can do to make them feel as if they have a little bit of themselves back is really important."

— Kimberly Weber, RN

mother, a former Rush patient. John Sachs is a member of the Medical Center's Board of Trustees.

"Kim cares deeply about her patients and their families," says her supervisor, Ann Lough, RN, clinical nurse coordinator, SICU, who nominated Weber for the Sachs award. "She tries to learn more about patients so she can talk with them and make them feel as if they're being treated as a complete person, not just as a patient with a condition."

Weber has been working in the SICU since 2004 and also works in the surgical services float pool at Rush Oak Park Hospital, where she started her career in 1996. The frame she made for the mother of the bride is just one example of the many kindnesses she's shown her patients over the years.

"It's the little things, like helping someone who's very sick brush her teeth and put on lipstick or wash-

ing someone's hair and combing it the way they like," Weber says. "Anything we can do to make them feel as if they have a little bit of themselves back is really important."

Weber combines these comforting actions with strong clinical abilities. "She's a very skilled nurse, and her compassion and caring add to that," Lough says.

"I work to stay abreast of everything clinically that I need to know in order to provide the best care I can," says Weber, who earned her bachelor's of nursing degree from Rush in 2007 and is applying to Rush's certified registered nurse anesthetist program. "But another part of nursing is providing emotional support, and I

really strive to do that as well. In order to be a good nurse you have to treat the patient holistically.

"We take care of very sick people in our unit, and we see a lot of suffering," she continues. "If I can give my patients a little hope or make them feel a bit more like themselves again, it touches my heart. It's one of the most powerful things in the world." •



Kim Weber, RN, with the Sachs award.

Employee Anniversaries

Each year, Founders Day honors the people who first established Rush University Medical Center as the Rush Medical College in 1837 and the people who make it one of the leading academic medical centers in the city and across the country. The following pages list Rush employees who are marking milestone anniversaries at the Medical Center this year. Rush thanks each of you, and all our staff, for your commitment to the Medical Center and to providing the best possible care for our patients. Each of you plays an important part in Rush's proud history and its exciting future. Congratulations to all of you.

5 YEARS

Jacques S. Abramowicz
Ross A. Abrams
Shari L. Ackmann
Shahid Ali
Amber Allen
Vickie Allen
Annmarie Alonso
Mary L. Altenbaumer
Jesus G. Anaya
Nicole E. Anderson
Karen D. Animashaun
Nichole Arnett
Olivia M. Askew
Theresa K. Atchley
Steve Attanasio
Artem G. Ayuyan
Mariam Aziz
Erica I. Bak
Roy A.E. Bakay
Prakash Balan
Michael J. Balthazor
Sameer Barkatullah
Heather F. Barker
Elizabeth M. Barriga
Animesh Barua
Gail M. Basch
Lawrence C. Basem
Freda B. Bassey
Laurie Bederow
Jay M. Behel
Donald Bellezza
Joseph G. Bennett
Laura M. Benson
Jennifer B. Bernard
Noelle L. Bertelson
Cindy L. Bisonaya
Lori S. Blakey
Eva M. Boahene
Tibor Boco
Maureen Bohmbach
Andrea Bondie
Candace N. Bowman
Roshawnda M. Boyd
April M.E. Bradley
Michelle L. Brady
Lauren Braun
Kimyatta Brent

Terry Bridges
Jonanne M. Britt
Naketa S. Britt
Tonya L. Brookshire
Cheryl Brown
Jennifer M. Burns
Peter W. Butler
Renay L. Campbell
Bridget F. Cantrell
Kevin M. Carpenter
Laurie Carroll
Donald E. Carter
Kevin R. Cavanaugh
Abdelhakim Chafai
Samantha B. Chinderle
Jason Chon
Crystal Chriss
Grazyna A. Chrobak
Barbara J. Cleveland
Sonya D. Coaxum
Shelia L. Cobbs
Deirdre K. Coia
Solithia Cole
Stephanie B. Coumas
Jennifer R. Cowan
Luchan R. Crawford
Shirley D. Crawford
Vinessa E. Crenshaw
Kelly L. Crowley
Elizabeth Cruz
Zhaotai Cui
Elizabeth A. Cyr
Kevin E. Dalton
Michael J. Davis
Nicole D. Davis
Adora A. DeLeon
Moises DelCarmen
Hilda F. Dias
Jennifer H. Diehl
Pamela Dimitrelis
Alexander J. Dinovo
Christine A. Dionisio
Yadira D. Dipalomares
Michelle Dipping
Patrick J. Dixon
Gordana Djokic
Tricia M. Doherty
Don R. Dolan
Miriam Dominguez

Sandra E. Donaldson
Sheila M. Dowd
Michelle Duda
Jennifer J. Dudlak
Mark L. Dumonski
Cynthia A. Dvorsky-Cleeton
Seby L. Edassery
Cammie S. Edgington
Kesha N. Ellis
Dalia Elmofty
Jennifer Erickson Foster
Frederick A. Escalona
Vanda N. Esme
Elizabeth Esposito
Tasha Evans
Denise R. Farnum
Robin L. Favor
Melinda Felger
Bessie Felton
Amon T. Ferry
Ruth A. Fiedler
Maureen A. Finigan
Jill R. Finner
Amelia T. Fiore
Doris Fischer-Sanchez
Kristine D. Fitz
Lucia Flores
Veronica M. Flores
Mary K. Fogleman
Russell S. Foster
Rebecca M. Fransted
Judith Frei
Angelica M. Fuentes
Crea L. Fusco
Sharon D. Gates
Anthony Gee
Kimberly A. George
Elizabeth M. Giedt
Candice N. Gillett
Kudirat Giwa
Bonnie M. Go
Robyn L. Golden
Elfega Gomez
Travis R. Gorline
Mary C. Gorney
Seretha Grant
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Taran L. Haag
Maureen Haak
Colleen A. Hainsworth
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Marilyn F. Harris
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Kimberly D. Hausherr
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Dana Hayden
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Erin E. Hederman
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Jacqueline Heinen

Diane E. Heneghan
Mary Jeanne Henseler
Bianca J. Hernandez
Daniel Hernandez
Michael Hernandez
Rodolfo Hernandez
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Rosie M. Howard
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Jill C. Johnson
Kisha D. Johnson
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Megan A. Jones
Jancy M. Karottu
Anton Kaufmann
Kiffon M. Keigher
Henry Kennedy
Paul M. Kent
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Jerome M. Klacza
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Mary Ellen Kok
Rediet Kokebie
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Susanna Kovari
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Nicholas W. Kriho
Kousik Krishnan
Sabina Kuduzovic
Sachin Kukreja
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Shauna L. Laatz
Traci A. Lacheta
Stacy Lambe
Lester E. LaMee Jr.

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Donna Ann Lang
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Virginia H. Laurin
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Melissa A. Laylock
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Yiu Kwong Leung
Byron A. Lewis
Jinyuan Li
Lily L. Liebling
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10 YEARS

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Laila Henderson
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Lashawn S. Johnson
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Chongyang Li
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Nancy Schaffer Lodding
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Estella Medina
Susan M. Mikolaitis
Elvira Miranda
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Martha E. Morales
Catherine A. Moran
Phillip Moreau
Sharon Morgan
Michelle Nardulli
Beth J. Nash
Karen R. Neimanas
Shannon M. Nelson
Annie R. Newman
Henrietta N. Nkemeh
Teresita R. Norkus
Keri Ann Nunez
Loretta O'Connor Cushman
Maureen O'Connor
Temeca N. Oats
Karl L. Oder
Mary C. Odwazny
Uchechi N. Ohiku
Sheba Oliver
Jack Olson Jr.
Veronica Olvera
Lazara R. Opio
Guadalupe Ordaz
Susan Owens
Maryann Padolina-Ramirez
Sunita Patel
Francisca D. Perez
Kristy R. Peterson
Sarah J. Peterson
Amanda Phillips
Thomas A. Pooley
Cary M. Portugal
Kimberly Pratt Joseph
Jeremy B. Pripstein
Christine Provenzano
Renee B. Przygodzka
Nachelle L. Pugh
Jeffrey T. Rado
Debra A. Ramdhanie
Jairam Ramdhanie
Maria E. Ramos
Francine J. Rampick
Hope M. Rangel
Jacqueline Reed
Yuriy Reznik
Arthur Rhodes
Kevin F. Rice
Delores Richards
Daniel K. Richardson
Christy R. Riska
Winifer Robertson

Terryann Rodriguez
Vivialyn Rodriguez
Virginia C. Rogers
Lisa Roskin
Ricardo Rostescu
Richard N. Rovner
Paulina Rubschlager
Brian F. Rudinsky
Carol L. Russo
Herbert E. A. Samuels
Maria Sanchez
Giselle Santos
Jill S. Schmitt
Jim D. Schwada
Jenneh R. Scott
Angel M. Scruggs
Paul N. Severin
Joanne R. Shackelford
Girish D. Sharma
Beth Susan Shields
David M. Simon
Doris L. Sims
Floyd Smith
Gwendolyn Smith
Napoleon L. Smith
Terese M. Sommerfeld
Vandna Soni
Carol A. Squires
Beth A. Staffileno
Julie A. Stanko-Kulesza
Frank G. Stauffer
Elaine M. Stephan
Cynthia L. Stepney
David A. Stewart
Cynthia D. Streeter
Jeremy E. Strong
Curt M. Struebin
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Yolanda L. Swift
Jin J. Tao
Jennifer Tarpey
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Carla V. Thomas
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Evangelista Torres
Norma M. Torres
Cindy R. Triplett
Milka Trivanovic
Nora J. Trybula
Carla P. Turner
Richard W. Udseth
John C. Urgo
Christopher Valadez
Sonia A. Vasquez
Leonard Verhagen
Jennifer C. Vernoski
Linda Villagran
Roberto Villarreal

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Sergio Villarreal
Amarjit Virdi
Bridget Walker
Stanley Walker
Christy Walloch
Marcia M. Ward
Jamila Watson
Juanita West
Lawrence F. Weston
Gregory G. Wilde
Antoinette Williams
Brandi L. Williams
Joyce Williams
Renita D. Williams
Robert L. Woods
Devona M. Woodson
Dylan A. Wright
James Wyatt
Helen Zalewski
Robert Zichmiller
Deborah S. Zielinski
Mindee L. Zilic

15 YEARS

Michaelene Abran
Janyce Barbara Agruss
Tamara R. Alexander
Debra A. Andes
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Deneb M. Arellano
Carmen Avila
Demetrice A. Barnes
Russell E. Bartt
Gerald B. Bell
Michele Ann Berg
Leeshell Betts
Lisa M. Beveridge
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Hank A. Boyce
Darlene Brown
Juanita Brown
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Valerie Butler Boyce
Senetra L. Carroll
Deanna Chavers
AeRan Choi
Shunatte R. Christian
Sarah L. Clark-Williams
Joyce L. Cleary
Michael K. Cleary
Eloise Coleman
Shirley D. Congenie
Mario A. Cristofano
Ottis L. Crudup
Julieta B. Cuaresma
Shawn M. Davies
Patricia A. Dawson
Robert DeCresce
Alice M. Dees
Theresa M. Dobeck
Jay A. Eckberg

Mary J. Ellsworth
Sandra A. Faux
Cynthia D. Fields
Pedro Flores Jr.
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Donna M. Franklin
Ricardo F. Galarion
Kim N. Garrett
Sefer Gezer
Blanca Gonzalez
Mark H. Gonzalez
Katherine L. Gould
Karen L. Graham
Liping Gu
David P. Gurka
Aguanetta C. Gutter
Charelynn S. Hall
Leanna Harris
Shirley Hartlage
Jennifer K. Hayden
Iris A. Haylock
Stephanie Y. Hicks
Velesha N. Holliday
Craig F. Horejs
Meghan E. Howie-Timmel
Paula W. Hsu
Gerri L. Humphrey
Viju T. John
Deborah L. Jones
Lynn M. Kalebich
Minerva E. Kinser
Denise M. Kirsten
Joseph Knapczyk
Shibu Koshy
Martha A. Kuhr
Lynna Lee LaManna
Janet T. Ladone
Sheila Lee
Michael D. Levick
Daniel E. Levin
John D. Lloyd-Still
Tamiko Lovett
Anna Luppó
Nell S. Lurain
David M. Mael
Trudi Magiera
Hansen Mansy
Lori Marek
Sharon D. Martin
Nelita T. Mateo
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William M. Poindexter
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Leslie Radz
Ana Ramijanc
Tony Reed
Margaret L. Riesen
Lynnae K. Rinne
James E. Robertson
Jennifer T. Robertson
Gertrude Rushing
Harriet L. Ryan
Christine Schwanbeck
Brooke L. Schwarz
Cathy Sextion Scales
Wendy S. Shulman
Eric E. Smith
Linda A. Smith
Hilarie C. Terebessy
Jane E. Thompson
Robin G. Tillmon
Kenneth M. Tonnissen
Carmen Trujillo
Margaret A. Vendely
Christine A. Wagner
Carl M. Wahlstrom
Diane M. Washington
Douglas Weil
Robert A. Weinstein
Cynthia M. White
Anna White-Lewis
Arline Wilson
Linda M. Womack
Hicela Castruita Woods
Christian Yager III

20 YEARS

William R. Aber
Regina M. Adams
Kenny O. Akintunde
Maria E. Alvarez
Triva M. Bean
Lucia M. Blasucci
Keith Blumingburg
Carl A. Bonner
Michael D. Brown
Bobbie Jean Brown
Darlene Brown
Elizabeth J. Casseday
Luke Sebastian Chirayil
Julie Clettenberg
Melody A. Cobleigh
Johnnie M. Conklin
Barbara A. Cook
Nichol Y. Cunningham
Alexia C. Davis
Martha K. DeJong
Stephen M. Donnawell
Maria S. Dudzicki
McKinley L. Ellison

Julia Espinosa
Paul Espinosa
Rosanne M. Faron
Carolyn A. Ferrari
William P. Fleming
Lourdes M. Fuentes
Carlos Gentil
Tanya Gilbert
Ramona Gracia
David R. Griggs
Christopher L. Grote
Linda J. Hall
Ira S. Halper
Emma L. Harrington
Valerice Harris
Benita Hawkins
Sally A. Hawkins
Christine A. Herrmann
Margaret M. Hickey
Patricia A. Humphrey
Bertha A. Ingram-Young
Joannie James
Louisa Johnson
Marilyn R. Jones
Karen M. Jones-Brooks
Cathy Lynn Joyce
Vera Kalin
William F. Karnoscak
David G. Karwo
Ulysses Kirby
Joseph G. Lariosa
Mary K. Lauer
Karla J. Laverty
Linda M. Lavine
Octavio Lemus
Debra F. Levin
Steven L. Lewis
Mary Jo McHugh
Regina F. McGee
Irene E. McNeal
Anthony L. Mixon
Mary L. Moore
Victor Moy
Amy B. Mozina
Cathy M. Norman
Jodi Palonis
Edna M. Parker
Reginald Parks
Surendra A. Patel
Mattie M. Patterson
Laurel A. Pawlak
Yvette M. Pennymon
Angela R. Phillips
Jolanta Plezia
Carnell M. Preshon
Margaret A. Price
Alok Rastogi
Peggy J. Reed
Regina C. Reynolds
Alison C. Ridge
Martha M. Rivera
Tommy Roberts

Lisa Rosenberg
Vivian Ruiz
Patricia Sanford
Gary L. Schaer
Catherine R. Sefcik
Mark C. Shaulinkas
Pamela K. Singer
Marianne E. Stocchetti
Dietra J. Stone
Rosemarie Suhayda
Diane A. Sylvester
Christine C. Tangney
Susan M. Tarchala
Khinman K. Teng
Tiajuana M. Tubbs
Ray D. Turner
Mignon Virgil
Alisha Wilson
Peter J. Wolak
Kim Renee Woods
Roberto Yanez
Diana Zegarra

25 YEARS

Robert A. Anderson
Donald R. Anderson
Wayne B. Anderson
Gunnar B.J. Andersson
Carole R. Barrett
Rene Bucio
Mary B. Busbey
Darlene Chatmon
Janice M. Craig
Floret Daniels
Thomas A. Deutsch
Patricia J. Dokman
Jeffrey P. Doll
Dennis Easley
Claudia Eaton
John K. Etheridge
Anna L. Fazio
Louis F. Fogg
Lalithambika H. Gabriel
Dante G. Galang
Rebecca Galicia
Deborah I. Gardiner
Tony Garrett
Lois A. Halstead
Mary Hand
Janet M. Haw
Irene Henderson
James Hsu
Bruce Huck
Ramona Hunter
Ann M. Jankiewicz
Guadalupe C. Jasso
Helen Killham
Phyllis A. Korpan
Vance Lauderdale III
Gladys A. Lee
Stephen R. Mack
Mercedes Matlock

Joan C. Mikol
Avery S. Miller
Keith W. Millikan
Mary Wood Molo
Wanda Laver Moore
Ronda E. Murphy
Cathy Negrete
Arnold Curtis Payne
Elizabeth Perez
Philip F. Quinn
Richard G. Rawlins
Jerome Reed
Nancy L. Reid
Michael Robinson
Milady Rodriguez-Gerger
Steven K. Rothchild
David Scales
Thomas M. Schmid
Jody M. Selenica
Annette Slingo
Helen F. Smith
R. Jeffrey Snell
Ida J. Spann
Debra A. Speaks
Dale R. Sumner
Hazel M. Taylor
David L. Thornton
Dorothy J. Toliver
Alan J. Trcka
Lucille Vaughn
Vanessa A. Vaughn
Patricia Ward
Rachelle E. Ward
James M. Williams
Willie S. Winters
Peggy Wood
John M. Zajecka

30 YEARS

Philip V. Adrian
Barbara A. Alliod-Osier
Maryrose Amato
David R. Anderson
Toni D. Anderson
Andris G. Baltmanis
Harold R. Bigger
James T. Blue
Onofrio Brescia
Violet Brown
Nicola Cadogan
Marietta Calderon
Catherine Catrambone
Yvonne Christmas
Beth-Anne Christopher
Fredric S. Cohen
Elisha D. Dahe
Maria Deblasi
Susan L. Denney
Adrienne L. Dinkins
Arlene Echols-Plump
Nathaniel Faulkner
Linda Freeman

Debbie S. Gist
Peter Gosche
Georgia M. Grawe
Lillie B. Griffin
Kevin W. Harper
Randy Hayes
Stephanie L. Hemphill
Tressa M. Hernandez
Patrice Hupke
Susan K. Jacob
Stephen C. Jensik
Magdalene Johnson
Helene Juratich Doll
Glenda A. Keaton
Stephen M. Korbet
Allen D. Korenblit
Jeffrey S. Kroin
Susan J. Larson
Debra A. Lee Williams
Norine J. Levison
Susan Litherland
Antonieta G. Llanes
Ann M. Lough
Deborah H. Matayoshi
Sr E. McDermott
Sandra L. McFolling
Debra J. Metellus
Karl P. Navarrete
Michael N. Nelson
Catherine H. Orpett
Tee W. Page
Wendy Patterson
Helen M. Petryna
Ella M. Richard
Spring C. Richards
Daniel H. Romancik
Jeri J. Rothman
Mark K. Schilling
Lynn Sivertsen
Anastasia K. Skipor
Deborah D. Smith
Michelle R. Smith
Mary Z. Stanton
Evadney L. Stephens
Larry L. Thomas
Hazel J. Thompson
Juanita Toliver-Moore
Thomas M. Turner
Sharon L. Tyrrell
Polly C. Wright
Susan Shih Wu
Robert L. Young

35 YEARS

Gladys L. Banger
Donna L. Bernardoni
Steve Bild
Carolyn Brown-Harris
David D. Caldarelli
Bibiana B. Chavez
Jacob H. Fox
Barbara M. Hare

Alan A. Harris
Beverly Huckman
Herschel A. Hunter
Ann Johnson Middleton
Amparo T. Kong
Homer Lambert Jr.
Anthony J. Liddi
Judith I. Linquist
Lois J. Luckett
Werner A. Meier
Raymond F. Narbone
Eileen A. O'Connell
Serafin Pantoja
Kathleen M. Pawlak
Geraldine Peacock
Isabel M. Pecson
Ardesa A. Perkins
Richard D. Rohde
Elaine M. Scorza
Carolyn R. Skipper
George A. Stathos
Dusan Stefoski
Mary K. Walker
Burnette M. Warren-Chaney
Walter J. Washington
May Wu
Carl C. Young
Josephine Young
Karen L. Zalay

40 YEARS

Frederick W. Achilles
Norma C. Ballenas
Penny L. Benetazzo
Wayne A. Franckowiak
Stephanie Gregory
John E. Hinko
Bertha Kelly
Stuart Levin
Bruce C. McLeod
Alice Belle Meskan
Mary L. Palmer
Domingo Rivera
Barbara A. Santucci
Barbara J. Sconyers
Gary R. Strokosch
Thomas S. Travers
Willie Lue Winters
Lester A. Wolf

45 YEARS

Janet M. Wolter

Please note: The Founders Day list does not include employees' academic degrees. Human resources has made every effort for this list to be as accurate as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Emma Gillett at ext. 2-5916.

RUSH UNIVERSITY MEDICAL CENTER RANKED AMONG THE TOP HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY IN NINE SPECIALTIES BY *U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT* MAGAZINE

Rush Is Ranked Higher in Orthopedics Than Any Other Program in Illinois



Larry J. Goodman, MD,
Rush President and CEO

Rush University Medical Center has once again been named one of the nation's top hospitals in a number of specialties in the July 21 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*. Rush is ranked among the best in nine of 16 specialties included in the magazine's annual "America's Best Hospitals" issue.

Just 174 out of 4,861 hospitals in the United States, about 3 percent, scored high enough this year to rank in even a single specialty, according to the magazine.

Rush is ranked higher than any other program in Illinois in orthopedics at No. 12 in the nation. The rankings of other Rush programs are as follows:

- Neurology and neurosurgery, No. 12
- Geriatric care, No. 24
- Gastroenterology (digestive disorders), No. 26

- Kidney disorders, No. 29
- Heart and heart surgery, No. 30
- Urology, No. 31
- Gynecology, No. 50
- Ear, nose and throat, No. 50

"Rush continues to do great work in a broad spectrum of categories, and these rankings are representative of the quality of care provided at Rush," says Larry J. Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO. "Rush has earned its place among the top academic medical centers in America."

Now in its 20th year, the 2009-10 "America's Best Hospitals" guide is the most extensive hospital ranking to date. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, the purpose of the "America's Best Hospitals" ranking is to help patients "who need medical sophistication that most facilities simply cannot offer." Hospitals are judged not in routine procedures but in complex and demanding situations, such as replacing an 85-year-old's heart valve, diagnosing and treating a spinal tumor and caring for a patient with inflammatory bowel disease.

According to the magazine's editors, "High-stakes medicine calls for more than the usual brand of doctoring."

"When the stakes are high, you want the best care you can get for someone

close to you," says Avery Comarow, health rankings editor. "These are hospitals that are used to getting the sickest patients."

The rankings in 12 of the 16 specialties are predominantly driven by hard data. There are four components: reputation, death rate, patient safety (new this year) and a set of care-related factors such as nursing and patient services. To be considered at all for the 12 data driven specialties, a hospital had to meet at least one of the three requirements: be a teaching hospital; have at least 200 beds; or have at least 100 beds plus at least four out of eight key medical technologies, such as current-generation CT scanners and precision radiation therapy.

In the four other specialties: ophthalmology, psychiatry, rehabilitation and rheumatology, ranking is based solely on reputation derived from physician surveys from the most recent three years. The 2009 rankings were produced by RTI International, a leading research organization based in Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Rush also has received the 2009 Premier Award for Quality for its commitment to outstanding patient

care and operational efficiency. The Medical Center was one of only 23 hospitals, out of more than 3,796 eligible hospitals nationwide, to receive the award from the Premier health care alliance.

This award recognizes health care organizations that efficiently provide outstanding patient care and consistently set the standard in clinical excellence. Criteria were performance-based data that include measure of quality in clinical outcomes, resource utilization and clinical processes.

Premier is a health care alliance of more than 2,100 hospitals and 58,000 other health care sites in the country dedicated to improving health care quality and affordability. Premier maintains the nation's most comprehensive repository of clinical, financial and outcomes information, and operates a leading health care purchasing network.

"We are pleased to be recognized as one of the nation's leading hospitals, delivering for our patients the highest standards of medical care efficiently and consistently," Goodman says.

More information about *U.S. News & World Report* rankings is available online at www.usnews.com/besthospitals.

EMPLOYEE SURVEY continued from page 1

Department of Human Resources. "All employees will have the opportunity to share what they truly feel regarding certain issues, creating opportunities for future changes."

The timeline for the survey and results is as follows:

- Sept. 21 - Oct. 2: The survey is open for all employees to complete.
- October - November: Rush's overall results will be shared throughout the organization.
- December: Managers will receive final results for their areas and begin action planning based on recommendations.

- January: Managers will share departmental results and action plans within their departments.

"I'm definitely going to take the survey," says Sarah Peterson, clinical dietician, food and nutrition services. "There have been some opportunities for me to voice my opinion before, but this survey will allow everyone to let our opinions be heard in a big way. I think all departments will benefit from changes that are made based on those who work in them."

For more information, go to HR Source on the intranet at www.hrsourcetrush.com.

Human Resources is sponsoring some events related to diversity and respect

Here are some upcoming workshops you can attend.

Talking About Respect With Dr. Goodman, Sept. 17

A Conversation About Respect, Oct. 30

A Conversation About Disability, Oct. 29, 4 to 7 p.m.

Respect in Action: Rush Diversity Week, Oct. 26 - 30. Events include: Play Reading Of Jewels and Dreams, Oct. 26; The 18th Annual Eugene J-MA Thonar, PhD Program, Oct. 27; Quantifying the Value of Diversity in Health Care and Education, Oct. 28; Preventing Cultural Clashes in Health Care Delivery, Oct. 29; and the Book Club *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Oct. 30.

For more information or to sign up, go to www.hrsourcetrush.com.

NEWSROUNDS

October 2009
Volume 48, Number 5

Rush University Medical Center

IN THIS ISSUE: Rush's Green Roofs

STIMULUS PLAN SUPPORTS RUSH RESEARCH PROJECTS

The federal government's economic stimulus package is translating into new jobs and new scientific studies at Rush, where researchers recently have received National Institutes of Health (NIH) grants funded by the stimulus plan.

The first round of grants is enabling Rush scientists to hire new staff and to pursue better understandings and treatments of diseases ranging from parasitic infections in Africa to asthma in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood.

The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) passed by Congress and signed by President Barack Obama in February included \$8.2 billion in additional funding for the NIH, a federal agency that conducts and supports medical research. (The NIH encompasses multiple institutes, such as the National Institute of Aging and National Heart and Lung Institute.) As of early August, Rush already had received more than a dozen ARRA-funded grants from the NIH totaling \$3.6 million over a two-year period, which will cover such costs as the salaries of research assistants, graduate student stipends, supplies and the rental of high-tech equipment not currently available at Rush.

Rush also has received two ARRA-funded grants totaling about \$513,000 from the National Science Foundation, a federal agency that supports basic science research.

In all, Rush researchers have submitted 85 grant applications to the NIH requesting a total of \$79 million in ARRA funding. "It's really energized our researchers," says James Mulshine, MD, vice president and associate provost for research at Rush.



James Mulshine, MD

Competition for these grants is intense: For one category of funding alone, the NIH received more than 20,000 applications for 200 available grants. Despite the daunting odds, Mulshine expects the additional NIH funding ultimately will result in Rush receiving six to 10 new grants by the time decisions about the remaining applications are made in the early fall.

First Rush ARRA Grant Goes to Study of Fatal Lung Condition

Dan Predescu, MD, assistant professor of pharmacology, became the first Rush researcher to receive ARRA funds in early May, when he was awarded \$150,000 over two years from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI). Predescu is examining the role a protein named caveolin plays in idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), a condition in which lung tissue becomes thick and stiff over time. About 50,000 new cases of IPF are diagnosed in the United States each year, and most people with the illness die three to five years after being diagnosed with it. The cause of the disease is unknown, and no cure exists for it.

Studies by other researchers have found that the absence of caveolin

Rush Research Portal Expedites Grant Application Process

When additional National Institutes of Health (NIH) funding became available as part of the government economic stimulus plan, Rush was ready to pursue the opportunity. Members of the Research and Clinical Trials Administration Office recently had finished developing a new Web portal that allows Rush researchers to submit their online NIH grant applications more easily and effectively.

"It turned out to be great timing, because we could take this massive influx of new grants and manage it efficiently because our system was revved up and ready to go," says James Mulshine, MD, vice president and associate provost for research at Rush.

The Rush Research Portal (www.rush.edu/researchportal) allows for system-to-system transfer of grant applications directly into grants.gov, the government Web site that is a clearinghouse for grant proposals. "We are certified with grants.gov, so our system can talk to their system," says Jennifer Garcia, manager of grant proposals.

Garcia is part of a team that also includes Donna Knuth, director of sponsored research projects, and Jessica

Avila, grants coordinator. Since the start of the year, they've trained more than 70 Rush research staff members how to prepare applications using the research portal.

The new system proved a big help after the NIH changed the formatting requirements for grant applications only to find that the agency's computer system couldn't handle the new forms and repeatedly crashed. While researchers all over the country were unable to submit their grant applications, Rush researchers remained able to transfer their proposals to the grants.gov system.

"We've been able to use the Rush Research Portal to circumvent many of these transmission problems," Mulshine says. "They took a potential meltdown and turned it into a great process."

Knuth and Garcia also are responsible for submitting the proposals after the researchers have prepared them. Since the beginning of the year, they've moved along more than 100 proposals. "That's what we're here for," Knuth says. "We want to help people get funded." •

Left to right: Jennifer Garcia, Jessica Avila and Donna Knuth.



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RESEARCH PROJECTS

continued from page 1

in laboratory mice results in a condition that mimics IPF. Caveolin is a part of fibroblasts, the cells that produce collagen, the main protein in human tissue. In cases of IPF, fibroblasts produce excess collagen that contributes to the lung scarring. To try to better understand the role caveolins play in this problem, Predescu will use reverse genetics to reduce the level of caveolins in fibroblasts taken from healthy lungs and use cutting-edge microscopic tools to observe how the cells change in real time.

“I want to understand exactly what these proteins are doing to initiate and propagate this disease,” Predescu says. “Understanding the mechanism will give us a tool to treat IPF.”

Finding Vulnerabilities in a Killer Worm

David Williams, PhD, associate professor of immunology and microbiology, also is using reverse genetics to understand the role a kind of protein plays in an illness. Williams is examining the function that phytochelatin synthase plays in schistosomiasis, a chronic parasitic infection that affects about 200 million people, most of them in Africa. He recently received a grant for \$412,000 over two years from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in support of his work.

Schistosomiasis causes liver, bladder and intestinal damage that

leads to about 280,000 deaths a year. Although a treatment for the illness exists, “there’s only one drug, and there’s nothing to fall back on if the parasite develops resistance to it,” Williams says.

The DNA of the schistosomiasis worm includes phytochelatin synthase, which isn’t a part of human DNA. “We don’t know what it does, and we’re trying to figure out its function,” Williams says. To find out, he’ll remove the protein and observe the parasite under a microscope to see how it responds to the change.

If it turns out the protein is essential to the worm’s survival, it presents a potential vulnerability that can be used to develop a treatment. Therefore, Williams also wants to develop a way to monitor phytochelatin synthase’s activity in the parasite to be able to see how it reacts to various potential molecular compounds that might inhibit the protein’s function.

Helping Children to Breathe Easier

For reasons that may be genetic and/or environmental, Puerto Rican children suffer from especially high levels of asthma, which affects approximately one-third of Puerto Rican children in Chicago’s Humboldt Park neighborhood a few miles from Rush. “It’s unbelievable. Nobody has reported rates that high in the United States,” says Molly Martin, MD, assistant professor of pediatrics and preventive medicine.

Additional Grants Further Rush Research Momentum

After the first three research grants described in the accompanying story were received, the following Rush faculty also received ARRA funding for these studies:

- Communication with robotic assistants for the elderly — Marquis D. Foreman, PhD, RN, professor and chairperson of adult health and gerontological nursing
- The role of the protein Intersectin-1s in regulating endothelial cell survival and the transplant of nutrients across the blood vessel wall — Sanda Predescu, assistant professor of pharmacology
- The combined use of bone morphogenetic protein 2 and low-intensity pulsed ultrasound in bone regeneration — Amarjit Singh Verdi, PhD, assistant professor of anatomy and cell biology
- Resetting the circadian clock (body clock) with light and melatonin to treat circadian misalignment — Charmaine Eastman, PhD, director of the biological rhythms research lab and professor of behavioral sciences
- Sleep length and circadian regulation in humans — Helen Burgess, PhD, associate director of the biological rhythms research lab and associate professor of behavioral sciences
- Air pollution and cognitive aging among older women — Jennifer Weuve, ScD, MPH, assistant professor of internal medicine, Rush Institute for Healthy Aging
- DNA-based biological indicators of multiple sclerosis — Victor Levenson, MD, associate professor, radiation oncology and pathology
- The role of the channels that allow passage of protons through cell membranes in causing flashes of light in single-celled marine organisms called dinoflagellates — Thomas DeCoursey, PhD, professor of molecular biophysics and physiology
- Alcohol, the enzyme inducible nitric oxide synthase, leaky gut and liver disease — Ali Keshavarian, director of the Section of Gastroenterology and Nutrition
- Blood brain barrier dysfunction in Parkinson’s diseases — Paul Carvey, PhD, dean of the Graduate College and chairperson of pharmacology

Martin received a grant of \$400,250 over a two-year period from the NHLBI to test the effectiveness of an intervention to help these children. Named Project CURA — La Comunidad Unida Retando El Asma (The Community United to Challenge Asthma) — the initiative is a collaboration between Rush, the Puerto Rican Cultural Center, the Near Northwest Neighborhood Network and the Greater Humboldt Park Community of Wellness.

With support from a previous NHLBI grant, the study will enroll a total of 100 kindergarten- to high school-aged Puerto Rican children with asthma who live in or near the Humboldt Park neighborhood. Half will receive home visits by community health workers who will provide education about asthma medication and triggers for asthma attacks, and half will receive the same information in written newsletters sent through the mail.

“At the start, midway and at the end, we’ll evaluate participants for medication adherence and the presence in the home of triggers like smoke, pets and dust,” Martin says. “We anticipate that the home visits will be the stronger intervention. If they

are, we’d like to conduct a larger trial that enables us to see if the intervention also improves asthma severity and asthma control.”

Planting Seeds for the Future

In addition to the research grants, Rush was awarded \$280,000 over the next two years for stipends, expenses and health insurance for five PhD students in neuroscience who will take special classes in aging outside the standard doctoral curriculum. Rush has received the student support for the past eight years from the National Institute of Aging, a part of the NIH, but the funding might not have been available this year without the additional stimulus package. Medical Center researchers also received two small grants that paid for summer jobs in Rush research labs for high school and college undergraduate students.

Mulshine says the availability of ARRA funding has been a catalyst for research at Rush: “Regardless of the ultimate level of funding Rush receives, this process stimulated new dialogues across our faculty and will result in research ideas that will move forward and bring new energy to our efforts to address our national health care crisis.” •

NEWSROUNDS

October 2009

Have a news item or story idea for *NewsRounds*? Contact the editor at: Phone: 942-5582 Fax: 563-4149 E-mail: anne_burgeson@rush.edu

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Please note: All physicians featured in this publication are on the medical staff of Rush University Medical Center. Some of the physicians are in private practice and, as independent practitioners, are not employees or agents of Rush University Medical Center.

GREEN ROOFS ENHANCE NEW RUSH BUILDINGS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

While it will be more than two years before the East Tower opens in 2012, we already are seeing some real signs of Rush's vision to become the first "green" full-service hospital in Chicago.

When each new building opens — beginning with the new parking garage, the central energy plant and, soon, the new Orthopedic Building — it includes a thoughtful, sustainable landscaping plan that includes such features as local plants that need less water and special planters that capture rain water.

This environmentally friendly vision does not stop at the street level. Rush has incorporated green roofs — the roof of a building that is partially or completely covered with vegetation and soil, planted over waterproof material — into the Transformation plans. Two of the four green roof tops planned for the new facilities already have begun to take root — literally. One is on top of the new Orthopedic Building, which will open in October, and a second is behind the new central energy plant, on the roof of the new underground loading dock.

A Rooftop and a Plaza

The green roof on top of the Orthopedic Building is extensive, with more than 1,360 trays laid out on the north and east sides. According to Joe DeVoss, assistant vice president, Office of Transformation, "Rush worked closely with certified landscaping architects to choose the right combination of plants, all with different bloom cycles to vary the view from season to season."

Looking less like a roof and more like a park, the area above the underground loading dock will feature a pleasant place for employees, patients and visitors, as well as members of our community, with park benches, grass and numerous small trees and shrubs.



The roof of the new Orthopedic Building houses a variety of plants with varying bloom cycles.



The underground loading dock "roof" will act as a park for employees, patients and visitors.

More than Just a Pretty Face

In addition to providing a unique aesthetic to the buildings and campus, these green roofs also will play a crucial ecological role on campus, as well as throughout the city. "Rather than sending rain into storm sewers and eventually to water treatment plants," explains DeVoss, "much of the rain water that falls on these roofs is captured and stored to nourish the plant life that lives there."

Green roofs also provide shade and remove heat from the air, reducing temperatures of the roof surface

and the surrounding air. On hot summer days, the surface temperature of a green roof can be cooler than the air temperature. Green roofs also are believed to absorb heat and act as an insulator for buildings, reducing the energy needed to provide heating and cooling.

Just the Beginning

In addition to the two completed green roofs, plans for the East Tower call for at least two more. One will be located on top of the tower, covering the four butterfly-shaped sections. Another one will be planted on the ninth floor and will be open

to staff. This second green roof will have benches for employees who wish to sit and relax, as well as a circular walking path for employees who would like to get a little exercise during their breaks.

The new hospital is scheduled to open in 2012 and will feature many green amenities — some readily visible, such as these green rooftops, and others less visible. Either way, the East Tower promises to shine as the sustainable hospital of the future. •

NEW MEDICAL DEVICES HELP IMPROVE PATIENT CARE

Telemetry System, VeinViewers and Defibrillators Enhance Patient Safety

Medicine increasingly requires the use of advanced new technology in combination with human knowledge and skill. At Rush, the biggest example of this trend is the ongoing implementation of Epic, the Medical Center's new electronic medical record-keeping system. Epic isn't the only new technology Rush is using to provide better patient care, though. Rush has implemented a new telemetry system, purchased imaging equipment to assist with blood draws and intravenous infusions, and acquired state-of-the-art defibrillators — all in order to enhance patient safety and care.

"We're always looking at ways to increase patient safety and patient satisfaction, whether it's preventing infection or not having to go through multiple x-rays, and we try to standardize along the way so the hospital is using the same devices whenever possible," says Andrea Pekofske, director of value analysis, who chairs Rush's Patient Care Products Review and Standardization Committee, which evaluates and selects new products used in clinical care. "Everything goes back to the I CARE values and trying to do the best for the patients that we can."

New Telemetry System Allows for Better Monitoring of Greater Number of Patients

Like other hospitals, Rush uses electrocardiograms (EKGs) to continuously monitor the heart function of its coronary care patients and alert nurses if a problem arises. The wireless technology that transmits the EKG information is known as telemetry.

"The patient is connected to EKG leads that are attached to a pocket-sized transmitter that the patient wears, and the transmitter broadcasts the EKG reading to a set of antennae, which pick up the signals," explains Fred Achilles, director of clinical engineering services. "The EKG reading is diagnosed by a remote computer in accordance with whatever limits or criteria the nurse at the central

station sets up, and notifies the central station if there's an issue with the patient."

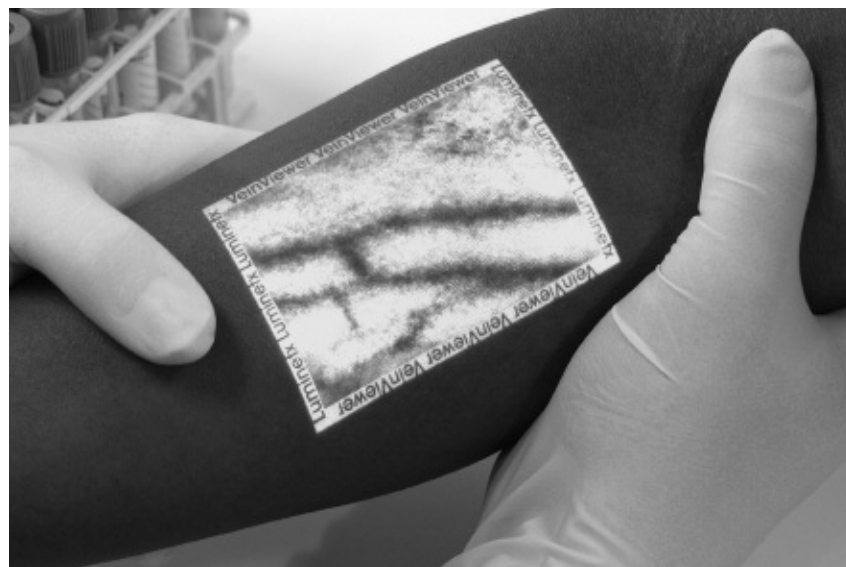
Previously, the Medical Center's telemetry systems transmitted their signals to an unused television channel. With the recent change to digital transmission of television signals, the possibility existed that a television station might receive the digital broadcast license for that channel. To avoid such conflicts, the Federal Communication Commission designated a special set of broadcast frequencies specifically for digital transmission of medical telemetry signals.

To make use of this new system, Rush purchased a new, \$2.4 million, customized, state-of-the-art telemetry system that includes antennae, transmitters and computers. The new system expanded Rush's telemetry capacity, allowing for monitoring up to 221 patients (the previous system could monitor a maximum of 140 patients).

The new telemetry system also allows for a wider range of patient monitoring. In addition to measuring heart rate and monitoring for arrhythmias (abnormal heartbeats), it can measure pulse oximetry — the level of oxygen saturation in a patient's blood — and levels of hemoglobin (the protein in the blood that carries oxygen). The system can record a total of up to 72 hours of beat-to-beat patient information.

VeinViewer Reduces Uncertainty, Pain and Stress of Needle Sticks

Blood draws and intravenous infusions are a regular and necessary part of patient care, but they can become very painful and stressful when a nurse is unable to locate a patient's vein and must make multiple needle sticks to find one. To avoid such situations, Rush acquired nine VeinViewers, devices that image the location of veins underneath the skin. "Many of the nurses like them a lot. It gives them a lot of confidence



Blood vessels in a patient's arm are illuminated using a VeinViewer.

about starting an IV," says Paula Dillon, MS, RN, director of medical-surgical nursing.

Using a combination of near-infrared light, a digital video camera and an image processor, the VeinViewer projects a real-time image on a patient's skin that shows the veins beneath it. The equipment allows for viewing veins up to 8 millimeters below the skin, regardless of a patient's age, body type or skin tone.

"It reduces patient pain and discomfort. Nobody likes being stuck with a needle," says Aviva Sauer, RN, a medical surgical nurse who has numerous experiences using the VeinViewer. "If I can't see a vein and I can't feel a vein, instead of blindly sticking the patient, I can go get this machine.

"I had a case the other day where I couldn't see anything or feel anything, but I found a vein and got the needle in on the first try with the VeinViewer," she adds.

Sauer notes that the VeinViewer is particularly helpful when working with kidney and transplant patients in her unit, because their veins are very difficult to locate. The machine also provides a distraction that helps ease patients' minds. "Family members will say, 'that's cool, let me stick my arm under it,'" Sauer says. "It gives patients something else to focus on."

New Defibrillators Bring Added Power to Critical Situations

A life-or-death patient situation requires the best possible response. For this reason, Rush has acquired

83 LifePak 20e-model defibrillators. In cases of cardiac arrest, a defibrillator may be used to deliver a jolt of electricity to the heart in an attempt to get it beating regularly again. "These are the defibrillators that we use in a crisis situation when a patient's heart stops," says Erika Schwelnus, DNP, APN, CNP, education quality coordinator, nursing systems.

The LifePak 20e defibrillator delivers up to 360 joules of energy to the heart (a joule is a unit of measurement equal to the amount of energy needed to produce one watt of electricity for one second). The new defibrillators replaced the lower-powered LifePak 9 defibrillators previously used at Rush. Now nearly all the clinical units at the Medical Center are equipped with a LifePak 20e defibrillator (some have the LifePak 12 defibrillator in addition to or instead of the LifePak 20e).

In addition to being higher-powered, the new defibrillators are biphasic, meaning that energy is delivered from both of the defibrillator paddles instead of just one. "This way, the heart is bombarded with more energy," Schwelnus says.

"This is on the cutting edge of technology," Schwelnus adds. "The new defibrillator is more user friendly. It's smaller and more compact. It's just a better piece of equipment. Having the new models on hand will enable us to provide better quality care, especially in critical care situations when a defibrillator and monitor are needed." •

RUSH RESEARCH IN THE NEWS

In addition to providing outstanding medical care, Rush University Medical Center is a major research institution. The Medical Center's physicians, scientists and researchers are pursuing a new understanding of complex medical questions as well as new treatments and techniques, all with the aim of ultimately improving care. The following Rush researchers and studies recently have received local and national media attention for their endeavors.

Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center Research

New research by the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center shows that more frequent social activity appears to stave off decline in motor function in older adults. A study was published in the June 22 issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine*. "Our findings suggest that engaging in social activities may also be protective against loss of motor abilities," said Aron Buchman, MD, associate professor of neurological sciences. Buchman was quoted in several news stories, including in the Vital Signs column of the *New York Times* on June 30. The story also was featured on Time.com and several other news outlets.

According to another new, long-term research study by neurological experts at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, Alzheimer's disease and its precursor, mild cognitive impairment, appear to be associated with an equally increased risk of death among both white and black older adults. The study, co-authored by Robert Wilson, PhD, neuropsychologist in the center, was featured in several articles on June 22, including on WebMD, MSN.com, HealthDay News and U.S. News & World Report.com. "Overall, the results do not suggest strong racial differences in survival for people with mild cognitive impairment and Alzheimer's disease," Wilson said.

In addition, Patricia A. Boyle, PhD, neuropsychologist, and her colleagues from the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, studied links between a sense of greater purpose in life and mortality. The study was featured on ABC-7 News and several other news outlets, including HealthDay News and Businessweek.com. "We are excited about these findings because they suggest that positive factors, such as having a sense of purpose in life, are important contributors to health," Boyle said.

New Exercise for Osteoarthritis of the Knees

Laura Thorp, PhD, assistant professor of anatomy and cell biology, is principal investigator for a study of a novel hip exercise program to treat osteoarthritis in the knees. The story appeared on WGN-9 News on June 26. "Ultimately, we're hoping we can prevent the disease from advancing. No treatment currently exists that can stop osteoarthritis from progressing in the knees, other than joint replacement surgery," Thorp said.

Baseball and Softball Pitching Injuries

Orthopedic surgeons at Rush who are also the team physicians for the Chicago White Sox conducted several studies examining pitching injuries in baseball and softball. "For pitchers under 14 years old, we encourage fast ball and change-up pitches and discourage the use

of a curveball to prevent injury," said Charles Bush-Joseph, MD, sports medicine specialist at Rush and co-author of the report. Bush-Joseph and Nikhil Verma, MD, appeared on ABC-7 News on May 14. Both doctors were interviewed for a feature story on the two Rush studies. "Contrary to common belief, softball pitching subjects the biceps to high forces and torques when the player's arm swings around to release the ball, according to an analysis of muscle firing patterns," said Verma, lead author and a specialist in sports medicine at Rush.

Verma was interviewed by WGN-9 News on May 21 about how the windmill pitch used in softball can cause injuries in female softball players. Bernard Bach, MD, and Shane Seroyer, MD, orthopedic fellow, were quoted in a *Chicago Tribune* article on May 10. The story featured research conducted by Rush orthopedic experts on the different types of overhand pitching injuries young baseball pitchers can sustain. Seroyer also was quoted in a United Press International story on April 13.

For more information about these studies and the latest news about Rush research, please visit the "Rush In The News" page on the Rush Web site, www.rush.edu.

Print articles also are available for viewing on the Rush intranet site located at <http://iris.rush.edu/news/>. To access the articles, go to the green bar on the left side of the page and select the link, "Media Clips." •

RUSH PROGRAM HELPS EMPLOYEE REALIZE DREAM OF OWNING HOME

Ada Brown, RN, geriatric psychiatry, was sick of renting her home. Though she enjoyed sharing an apartment with her sister, she wanted "freedom from a landlord," as Brown put it — and the ability to paint her walls a color she liked. More important, "I wanted to see my money going somewhere," Brown says.

In January, Brown realized her homeownership dreams when she moved into her brand-new, two-bedroom, two-bathroom condominium in the Woodlawn community on Chicago's South Side.

Rush helped Brown do it. Through the Medical Center's Employer Assistance Housing Program (EAHP), Brown received \$5,000 in down payment assistance. The EAHP provides qualified employees with financial assistance in purchasing a home within the Chicago metropolitan area.

Brown, who has worked at Rush for three years, leveraged Rush's program and her status as a first-time homebuyer to receive an additional \$20,000 in down payment assistance from the City of Chicago.

She is very pleased with the program and encourages her fellow Rush employees to look into it if they're considering buying a home. "I'd recommend others take advantage of it," she says. "I'm really happy to finally be putting my money somewhere I can see it."

For more information on the EAHP, please visit hrsourceatrush.com on the intranet or call the benefits department at ext. 2-6637. •



Every quarter, Rush employees are recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty for patients, families, visitors and co-workers. These employees are shining examples of the Rush I CARE values (innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect and excellence). Here are the winners of Rush's awards for the first quarter of fiscal year 2009.

Employee of the Quarter

Curlie Moore, clinic coordinator II, Rush University Internists, has been called "a mover and shaker, a moment maker," and for good reason. Since April 2008, Moore has received seven "Wow" awards from Rush employees. She was nominated for these awards to recognize her constant exemplary acts of caring and kindness and her outstanding demonstration of the I CARE values — going above and beyond the scope of her job expectations. Encouraging, honest, patient, helpful and thorough are just a few words that have been used to describe Moore. Patients have also commented about how Moore exceeds their expectations. "This was the best customer service I have ever seen," said one patient. "Curlie makes it seem like an easy task, when it is not. It's a delicate balancing act between providing compassionate customer service and satisfying the tasks of her job as a clinic coordinator. Other employees tell me they wish they could clone her," says Grace Mendoza, operations manager III, Rush University Internists.

Manager of the Quarter

Anne Burgeson, director of internal communications, Department of Marketing and Communications, is the "behind the scenes" part of communications at Rush. Those who have worked with her have

found her to be an excellent resource for informing the Rush community about the latest news and activities at the Medical Center. She played a significant role in helping Rush receive the Exemplary Voluntary Efforts (EVE) Award in 2007. "We turned to Anne for much needed help, which enabled us to submit the massive proposal on time," says nominator Paula Brown, project coordinator, Office for Equal Opportunity. Burgeson credits her success to the excellent internal communications team she works with, which includes the following people: Cindee Castronovo, associate director of internal and transformation communications; Nancy Di Fiore, public relations specialist; writers Libby Higgins and Kevin McKeough, and the rest of the marketing and communications staff. "We are a collaborative group, and we enjoy helping people throughout the organization on their communications needs and challenges," Burgeson says.

Team of the Quarter

The administrative office staff team in the Office of Medical Student Programs (OMSP) helps guide students from the admission process through the intense procedure of becoming a physician until the time for postgraduate residency training. This team is always ready to lend a hand to meet the needs of busy students. Whether it's for recruitment, career development sessions, faculty development retreats, match day or graduation, this team works together to contribute to the students' success. "I am truly appreciative of the many contributions that the administrative office staff of the OMSP make in helping to keep Rush Medical College a wonderful experience for our students. They are always positive and friendly. Students feel they always have an ear to listen to them and a helping hand to get things accomplished," says Robert L. Rosen, MD, director of clinical curriculum programs at Rush Medical College.



Curlie Moore

Patient Satisfaction "Star"

Every quarter, an employee whose name appears in two or more favorable patient evaluations is awarded the patient satisfaction "star" award. This quarter, five stars were honored: Shira Miller, child life; John Robertson, inpatient CAT scan; Yvonne Stafford, RN, 3 Kellogg, medical/surgical nursing; Tony Viteri, RN, emergency department; and Virginia Rogers, who was operational manager of Associates in Internal Medicine when she received this award and has since moved on to be a RUMG certified medical assistant, Rush Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery. Some patient comments included the following:

- "Shira explained the MRI procedure in a way that my 3-year-old daughter could understand, using a doll, mask, picture, etc. She not only helped my daughter, but two very nervous parents understand what to expect. My daughter named one of her dolls after Shira."
- "John was extremely polite and informative during my CAT scan. He made me very comfortable during this process, especially after I got sick during my scan."

- "Kudos to Yvonne. My initial IV hurt, but Yvonne said it looked and worked fine. The next day she wasn't my assigned nurse, but came to check it and put in a new one."
- "Tony is the best. He made my 2-year-old son very comfortable in a scary situation."
- "Had it not been for Virginia's courteous way of making me feel that my concern was important to her and the office, I'm not sure I would have had as pleasant an experience."

Carol Stege Award for Environmental Services

Lynwood Willis, environmental specialist for the Atrium lobby, exemplifies Rush's I CARE values. "Every morning that I come in since I've started at Rush, Lynwood greets me with a warm welcome and a smile. I can't tell you the amount of phone calls I get where people commend Lynwood for his overall friendliness and great attitude," says Jack Stires, director of environmental services. "He really adds value and is an ambassador to environmental services and Rush as a whole." •

To nominate someone for a quarterly award, call Clare Quinn at ext. 2-3641.

1st Quarter Employee Awards



The administrative office staff team (left to right): Jennifer Sale, Gloria Watkins, Jan Schmidt, Janice Nunnally, Anne Rosen, Ria Majeske and Minnie McMath.



Kate O'Shaugnessy (center) with Patient Satisfaction "Star" winners (left to right): Yvonne Stafford, RN; Shira Miller; Virginia Rogers; and Tony Viteri, RN. Not pictured: John Robertson.



Anne Burgeson



Lynwood Willis

RUSH LAUNCHES AUTISM RESOURCE CENTER

Rush recently launched the Autism Resource Center, a comprehensive online and phone referral source for services ranging from therapy and after-school programs to dental practices catering to children with autism. Parents even can find specialized providers who can give their children a haircut or teach them how to swim — experiences that can be especially difficult for kids with autism.

The incidence of autism has increased dramatically, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One in 150 children now is diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, which is characterized by impairments in social interaction and communication, and unusual behavior and interests.

"There is no known cure for autism, but research has shown that the kinds of services we have included in our resource guide can have a tremendous positive impact on educational performance, socialization, language skills and sensory integration," says Louis Kraus, MD, director of child and adolescent psychiatry at Rush. "The possibility of these improvements makes it so important to help families find the right resources and learn where and how they can link up with these programs."

The online resource guide at www.rush.edu/autism, provides referrals in Lake, McHenry, Kane, DuPage, Cook, Kendall, Will, Grundy and Kankakee counties. Families also can call the Autism Resource Center at (312) 563-2272 for referrals instead of searching the database online.

The resource guide includes listings for the following services and programs: neurological assessment and evaluation; behavioral management, case management and home-based interventions; education; respite care; recreation (with lists of appropriate toys, books and films, as well as summer camps and play groups); different kinds of therapy (for example, cognitive, art and family therapies); research studies and clinical trials; and support groups.

Each listing includes information about fees, whether insurance is accepted, direct Web links to the resource, and information about wait lists. Listings are reviewed and updated daily. In an effort to continually improve the database, a brief voluntary online survey seeks feedback about whether families who used the site were able to find what they were looking for and whether the listed services met their needs and were helpful.

"There is a wealth of services in the Chicago area, but finding the right programs for children, whatever their needs might be, can be extremely time-consuming and frustrating," Kraus says. "Our resource guide makes the process so much easier." •

The team from Rush's Autism Resource Center (left to right): Natalie M. Forburger, MA, LPC; Hollie Sobel, PhD; and Louis Kraus, MD.



RUSH PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

Rush has appointed **Sharon E. Byrd, MD**, chairperson of the Department of Diagnostic Radiology. Byrd, currently professor and director of the neuroradiology fellowship program in the department, replaces David Turner, MD, who is retiring as chairperson but continuing his clinical academic practice. Prior to joining Rush in 2002, Byrd was professor and head of neuroimaging at Children's Memorial Hospital. She has lectured worldwide and published 88 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters in her areas of research, which include functional magnetic resonance imaging and magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

Rush has appointed **Guy Petruzzelli, MD, PhD, MBA, FACS** — chief of the Section of Head, Neck and Skull Base Surgery in the Department of Otolaryngology and professor of otolaryngology and neurosurgery — the Charles Arthur Weaver Professor of Cancer Research. Petruzzelli's areas of clinical and research interest are minimally invasive surgery of head, neck and skull tumors; head and neck oncology; cranial base tumors; and surgery of the thyroid, larynx, pharynx, oral cavities and skull base. The Charles Arthur Weaver Chair of Cancer Research was established in 1993 and is used to support faculty of the Rush Cancer Institute.

This past spring, Rush named **Jack Stires** director of environmental services and **Denise Wiley** assistant director of environmental services. Prior to joining the Medical Center, Stires worked with Crothall Services Group. He also worked as the director of housekeeping and patient transportation at The Children's Hospital in Denver. Wiley served as the assistant director of housekeeping at Rush University from 1989 through 1993. She has more than 22 years of experience with hospital management operations in positions including director of housekeeping, general manager, plant operations, patient transportation and project engineering.

KUDOS

The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) honored **Kathleen Gainor Andreoli, RN, DSN, FAAN**, with its GE Healthcare-AACN Pioneering Spirit Award during the 2009 National Teaching Institute & Critical Care Exposition in New Orleans in May. Andreoli, Kellogg Emeritus Dean, Rush College of Nursing, served as the first nurse co-editor of AACN's journal *Heart & Lung*. She also co-authored *Comprehensive Cardiac Care*, a highly influential textbook published eight times and later renamed *Andreoli's Comprehensive Cardiac Care*. The GE Healthcare-AACN Pioneering Spirit Award recognizes significant contributions that influence acute and critical care nursing regionally and nationally and relate to AACN's mission, vision and values.

The Chicago area chapter of the Susan G. Komen Foundation honored **David Ansell, MD, MPH**, chief medical officer, hospital affairs, and **Steven Whitman, MD**, professor, Department of Preventive Medicine, for their work in the fight against breast cancer. The two men received the Community Healthcare Partner Award during the foundation's Promise Award Dinner in June. Whitman has spent the last 30 years addressing health disparity issues, and currently focuses on health disparities in the areas of breast cancer, diabetes, pediatric asthma and childhood obesity. Ansell is the board chair of the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Task Force, which examines Chicago metro area interventions to improve the quality of breast care and reduce treatment disparity in the Chicago-land region.

The National Basketball Athletic Trainers Association (NBATA) voted **Brian Cole, MD, MBA**, sports medicine specialist and orthopedic surgeon at Rush University Medical Center, as the 2009 National Basketball Association (NBA) Team Physician of the Year. The NBATA comprises 57 dedicated athletic trainers servicing NBA teams. Cole has



Sharon E. Byrd, MD



Guy Petruzzelli, MD, PhD, MBA, FACS



David Ansell, MD, MPH



Brian Cole, MD, MBA

served as the head team physician for the Chicago Bulls for the past five years. In this role, he has become one of the most respected physicians in the NBA.

The National Hearing Conservation Association (NHCA) awarded third-year audiology student **McLorn Carpenter** and second-year audiology student **Melissa Alexander** the NHCA Student Travel Award. The award included paid airfare, travel expenses and registration for two workshops as well as the NHCA annual conference.

Nicole Friel, a Rush Medical College student, received the 2009 Alpha Omega Alpha Carolyn L. Kuchen Student Research Fellowship to support her master's thesis project. Friel is completing her research in the Department of Orthopedics and the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology.

In March, **Sharon Gates, MA**, director, Office of Community and Global Health, and interim director, multicultural student affairs, spoke at the



Nicole Friel

Med-Peds Health Fair at CCIL on Chicago's near West Side. The event included height and weight checks, blood pressure readings, blood sugar checks and vision and hearing tests. CCIL is a not-for-profit social service agency serving homeless men, women and children of all races and religions on behalf of the community of metropolitan Chicago.

In April, **Beverly Huckman**, associate vice president for equal opportunity, spoke at a press conference with



Catherine A. Jacobson



Jane Llewellyn, RN, PhD



Richard Rawlins, PhD

Mayor Richard Daley about the city's summer youth employment program, "Youth Ready Chicago." Huckman talked about Rush's participation in the program, in particular how Rush Medical College has placed several students with disabilities through the program.

The Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) elected **Catherine A. Jacobson**, CFO, senior vice president of strategic planning and finance and treasurer, to serve as the

organization's voluntary chairperson of the board of directors for 2009 - 2010. Jacobson's term began June 1, and she was inducted at HFMA's annual national institute, held in June in Seattle. HFMA provides resources that health care organizations need to achieve sound fiscal health in order to provide excellent patient care.

Carl Lambert, Jr., a second-year Rush Medical College student, has received the American Medical Association (AMA) Foundation's 2009 Minority Scholars Award. One of only 12 medical student recipients in the country, Lambert will receive a \$10,000 scholarship in recognition of his excellence as a medical student and outstanding promise for a future career in medicine. This award, given in collaboration with the AMA Minority Affairs Consortium, promotes diversity in the medical profession and helps with the rapidly rising cost of medical education. The awards recognize scholastic achievement, financial need and commitment to improving minority health among first or second-year medical students in groups defined as historically underrepresented in the medical profession.

Jane Llewellyn, RN, PhD, vice president, chief nursing officer, associate dean for practice, received the *Nursing Spectrum* Advancing and Leading the Profession Award during the magazine's nursing excellence event for the greater Chicago area in May. Llewellyn was recognized by the Rush nursing staff for her leadership at the Medical Center.

Juanita Mora, MD, won the 2009 Feinberg Prize from the Illinois Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ISAAI) during its research symposium in April. Mora was a fellow in the joint Rush-John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County allergy/immunology training program. She has since taken a job in private practice with Associated Allergists in Chicago.

The American Association of Bioanalysts (AAB) has awarded

Richard Rawlins, PhD, the Lucien Dean Hertel Memorial Award for his work at Rush. The award also honored his involvement with the AAB's certification program for andrologists and embryologists and in the growth of the AAB's College of Reproductive Biology. Rawlins is a professor of obstetrics and gynecology and a professor of anatomy and cell biology. This prestigious award is named for the association's first executive director.

Peter Zavislak, a second-year Rush Medical College student, received Rush's 2009 John E. Ware Patient Experience Research Award. Zavislak received this award in recognition of his poster presentation, "The Safety of Driving in Patients after Minor Surgery with Monitored Anesthesia Care," which he prepared with **Mario Moric, PhD**, research coordinator, Department of Anesthesiology, and **Asokumar Buvanendran, MD**, associate professor, Department of Anesthesiology. The award was announced at Rush's 26th annual Forum for Research and Clinical Investigation as part of the Sigma Xi student recognition program. The John E. Ware Patient Experience Research Award is given annually to the student project at Rush that uses patient feedback in the most innovative or effective manner. The award is named in honor of a pioneer in the systematic use of feedback from patients to improve their care.

Four faculty members from the Department of Community, Systems and Mental Health were inducted as members of the Institute of Medicine of Chicago (IOMC) during its 94th annual meeting and awards dinner, held in May. They are as follows: **Kathleen Delaney, PhD, PMH-NP**, professor; **Mary Johnson, PhD, RN**, professor and acting chairperson; **Pamela Levin, PhD, APHN-BC**, associate professor; and **Susan Swider, PhD, APHN-BC**, associate professor. The IOMC's mission is the advancement of medicine and allied sciences and their application to human needs.

Earl Abramson, **Beverley J. Kroll**, **James T. Frankenbach**, **Harvey Pyes**

and **Richard Sharfstein** each received the 2009 Trustee Medal during Rush University's commencement in June. They were honored for their collective leadership, vision and dedication in working with the Medical Center to identify a new strategic partner for Rush North Shore Medical Center (now Skokie Hospital). Abramson, Pyes and Sharfstein are all former chairpersons of the Board of Rush North Shore Medical Center and while in that role served on Rush University Medical Center's executive committee. Frankenbach first joined the Medical Center's management in 1975 and led Rush North Shore as its president and CEO from 1990 - 1995 and 2003 - 2008. Kroll is the most recent chairperson of the Board of Rush North Shore Medical Center, serving from November 2004 through December 2008. The Trustee Medal was established in 1987 to periodically recognize "... individuals of distinction who embody the ideals of the Medical Center maintained since its founding ... and whose achievements provide exemplary standards for generations to come."

Rush's Virtual Integrated Practice project team has developed an online interdisciplinary training course for the National PACE Association (NPA) and its 60 member geriatric sites. The team consists of **Stan Lapidus**, project director; **Steven Rothschild, MD**, associate professor and vice chairperson, Department of Preventive Medicine; **Lois Halstead, PhD, RN**, vice provost, Rush University, and vice president, university affairs; **Cathy Catrambone, PhD, RN**, assistant professor, adult health and gerontological nursing; **Robyn Golden, MA, LCSW**, director, Older Adult Program; **Kathy Keim, PhD, RD, LDN**, associate professor, clinical nutrition; and **Susan Breakwell, APHN-BC, DNP**, associate professor, Community, Systems & Mental Health Nursing. NPA exists to advance the efforts of PACE, which stands for Programs of All-inclusive

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RUSH PEOPLE

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Care for the Elderly. PACE programs coordinate and provide necessary preventive, primary, acute and long term care services that enable older individuals to continue living in the community. The Rush team's course was launched in the spring and integrates academic education with experiential learning, helping prepare new staff members for their role as part of the PACE interdisciplinary team.

In May, **Rush University Medical Center's primary stroke center** received the American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines-Stroke Gold Performance Achievement Award. The award recognizes Rush's commitment and success in implementing a higher standard of stroke care by ensuring that stroke patients receive treatment for at least 24 months according to nationally accepted standards and recommendations. The stroke center has already earned the "Gold Seal of Approval" from the Joint Commission's Primary Stroke Center Certification Program.

Rush's Department of General Surgery hosted the Illinois Surgical Society Clinic Day on May 4. The following faculty and residents presented the lectures during the event:

- **Matthew Ough, MD**, general surgery resident – "Core Biopsy vs. Final Pathology in Breast Cancer"
- **Erin Farlow, MD**, general surgery resident – "Early Detection of Lung Cancer"
- **Norman Wool, MD**, general surgery – "Vascular Access – Pearls and Pitfalls"
- **Chad Jacobs, MD**, vascular surgery – "Endovascular Stenting"
- **John Butsch, MD**, general surgery – "Necrotizing Fasciitis"
- **Michal Liptay, MD**, cardiovascular/thoracic surgery – "The Future of Pulmonary Surgery"
- **Ai Xuan Holterman, MD**, general surgery – "Morbid Obesity Surgery in Adolescents"

- **Keith Millikan, MD**, general surgery – "Hernia"

In June, Rush elected **Robert DeCresce, MD, MBA**; **Bishop Jeffrey D. Lee**; **Aylwin B. Lewis**; and **Stephen N. Potter** to its Board of Trustees.

DeCresce, who lives in Chicago, is the new president of the medical staff of Rush University Medical Center. He is the Harriet Blair Borland professor and chairperson of pathology at Rush, director of clinical laboratories and associate vice president for Hospital Operations. DeCresce came to Rush in 1991 from Michael Reese Hospital, where he was acting chief of service and director of laboratory services, operations and planning. He previously has served as vice president and laboratory director for MetPath, Inc., of Des Plaines, Ill., and director of chemistry and hematology at University Hospital in Brooklyn, N.Y. DeCresce is a fellow of the College of American Pathologists, the American Society of Clinical Pathologists and the American Board of Clinical Biochemistry. He has served on the editorial boards of professional journals, has written more than 100 research papers and is actively involved with Rush's Science and Math Excellence Network.

The retired Rev. Jeffrey D. Lee is the Episcopal Bishop of Chicago and 12th Bishop of Chicago. Bishop Lee is the former rector of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Medina, Wash., and also served as rector of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church in River Hills, Wis. He is a faculty member of CREDO Institute and serves on the board of Bishop Anderson House, an Episcopal ministry serving all hospitals in the Illinois Medical District. Lee has served on the boards of the North American Association of the Diaconate, the Council of Associated Parishes, and Affirming Catholicism.

Lewis, who lives in Lake Forest, Ill., is the president and chief executive officer of Potbelly Sandwich Works and serves as a member of the board of directors of The Walt Disney Company. Previously, Lewis served as



Robert DeCresce, MD, MBA



Bishop Jeffrey D. Lee



Aylwin B. Lewis



Stephen N. Potter

president and chief executive officer of Sears Holdings, Kmart and Sears Retail and YUM! Brands, Inc. He also served as chief operating officer of Pizza Hut and has more than 26 years of restaurant experience.

Potter, who lives in Kenilworth, Ill., is president of Northern Trust Global Investments, is executive vice president of Northern Trust and sits on the corporation's management group. From 2001 - 2008, Potter was based in London and served as the chief executive officer of Europe, Middle East and Africa for Northern Trust, overseeing all business in the region. He also served as chairman and chief executive officer of Northern Trust Global Services Ltd., chairman of Northern Trust Global Investments, Ltd., and segment head of International and Global Fund Services in London. He has more than 25 years of experience within the financial services industry.

The Rush University College of Nursing Faculty Practice Program

recently received a \$50,000 contribution to assist with the development and implementation of an obesity prevention, identification and treatment program at school-based health centers. The grant — which was given through the Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program — will help provide treatment for overweight students as well as education about all aspects of obesity. This initiative will be implemented at school-based health centers at Crane and Orr High Schools on Chicago's West Side. The program aims to increase awareness of health risks associated with being overweight, increase knowledge of nutrition and exercise, change behavior related to physical activity and nutrition, and improve the health status of overweight students. The protocol will consist of prevention programs, body mass index assessment strategies, development of a diagnosis and treatment, and individualized action plans for overweight students. •

RUSH UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES NEW STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

RUConnected PROVIDES EASY, EFFICIENT ONE-STOP COMPUTING

Imagine one central location where Rush University students, faculty, staff and even applicants can manage university information. RUConnected provides this location and more. Launched in phases beginning in November 2008, RUConnected is Rush University's new student information system, providing a single site for managing information and communications related to recruitment, admissions, academics, financial aid, financial affairs, student life and campus housing. The system became fully operational this summer.

The idea for a comprehensive university information system with the goal of linking people and processes has been brewing since 2001, according to William Karnoscak, MLIS, acting associate provost for student affairs. "In student surveys, a common theme developed around the desire to have the ability to register online, view grades online, pay tuition online, etc.," Karnoscak says. "Most students who come to Rush have already attended an undergraduate institution and were accustomed to online transactions."

A multidisciplinary committee comprising faculty, staff and management across the campus formed to investigate implementing a new system for the university. The committee included representatives from information services, finance, student services and all four colleges. In 2007, the committee selected the vendor Datatel — a company founded in 1968 that now has its system installed in nearly 800 colleges and universities across the country — to provide Rush its university information system.

The benefits of having a Web-based information system like RUConnected are many. Prospective students will apply to Rush University using the same online application but will see only those questions related to their desired degree program or college. Applications will be managed through RUConnected, allowing College Admissions Services to enter receipt of transcripts, recommendations, test scores and additional information. Additionally, applicants will receive e-mail notifications for information still required to complete their application process. Once an applicant has been accepted and decides to attend, an RUConnected account is created,



allowing them to view information regarding their financial aid, registration and billing, as well as other academic resources.

"RUConnected makes the transition from applicant to student a seamless one," says Karnoscak. "With a consolidated entry point for all Rush University-related information, including forms, processes, e-mail and online course management, students can spend more time on academic pursuits and less time applying for financial aid, registering for courses, paying bills and other essential, but time-consuming, necessities of college life."

Students aren't the only ones who benefit from RUConnected. Faculty and staff also will see improvements in terms of efficiency and a streamlining of administrative tasks. Faculty members now have access to one centralized faculty roster. It's the first time the entire faculty will be searchable in one database. Course directors will be able to submit student grades online and

send targeted e-mail to students and other faculty.

While faculty spend less time tracking down students and sending e-mail, RUConnected will help university staff view the complete history of communications with applicants, allowing them to see where a particular person is within the application process. In addition to monitoring applicants, staff now can target accepted students with the proper communications and requirements they'll need upon entering Rush University, from health forms and licensing information to orientation needs and updates.

"RUConnected for the university is on a similar scale as Epic for the hospital, in terms of impact on our daily processes," Karnoscak explains. "Launching this system has been a collaborative effort, with people coming together and working to implement something benefiting all university stakeholders — from students and applicants to faculty and staff." •

RUSH CLINICIANS TRAVEL TO VIETNAM TO TEACH EXCELLENCE IN PATIENT CARE

Rush's commitment to providing the best in patient care starts with the communities surrounding the Medical Center. But for many at Rush, that commitment extends beyond the Medical Center, and even beyond Chicago. Dawn Reimann, RNC, MS, and Werner Meier, MD, traveled around the world to help improve infant mortality rates. In March, Reimann, an education coordinator in the Rush Perinatal Center, and Meier, a neonatologist and co-director of the Rush Perinatal Center, traveled to Vietnam for three weeks to teach nursing and medical personnel there the American Academy of Pediatrics/American Heart Association's Neonatal Resuscitation Program (NRP).

The duo traveled with a group from the International Relief Team (IRT), an organization specializing in medical education and training programs involving modern methods of maternal and infant care. For this particular

trip, IRT partnered with Project Vietnam Foundation, which the American Academy of Pediatrics began in 1996 to develop a network for newborn care at each of Vietnam's 64 provinces. Project Vietnam Foundation's goal is to decrease infant mortality and ensure the best chance of quality of life for the 1.6 million babies born annually in the country.

Asked why she'd want to travel on her own free time to a country halfway around the world with primitive health conditions, Reimann responded, "I enjoy helping people in countries of need. You learn so much from different cultures."

Reimann and Meier first traveled to Rach Gia, on the southwest tip of Vietnam, and then on to Da Nang, on the country's eastern central coast along the South China Sea. Spending five days in each city and assisted by interpreters, they taught a total of 30 instructors and 103 providers. The goal was that these newly trained



Werner Meier, MD, (second from left), and Dawn Reimann, RN (fourth from left), with new neonatal resuscitation instructors in Rach Gia, Vietnam.

Vietnamese teachers and caregivers would then go out to the more rural areas of the country and train additional medical staff on the NRP and CPR techniques they had learned.

Meier likened the situation in Vietnam to what Illinois was like in the early 70s. "In 1975, the infant mortality rate here was 22 deaths per 1,000 babies born," he explains. "In five years, we were able to decrease that number by 50 percent mostly by education and initial resuscitation rather than technology. In my mind, I figured if we were able to do it here, they could do it in Vietnam."

Of their trip, Meier and Reimann were struck by how appreciative the Vietnamese people were. "They were so eager and grateful to learn the program," Reimann says. "The people were very kind and hospitable to us. It was such a rewarding experience."

Reimann and Meier both previously have traveled on similar missions, and both say they intend to continue their travels to help educating clinicians in other countries. "I like to work where I can change the system for the better," Meier says. •



RUSH'S OUTPATIENT CHEST PAIN CENTER NOW OPEN

The Rush Outpatient Chest Pain Center, which opened in May, is designed specifically for patients who do not require emergency care for chest pain but may be suffering from coronary artery disease or chest pain, or have concerns about their cardiac health and want quick access to an expert. Physicians who have ruled out myocardial infarction in patients with chest pain but still want them to have cardiac evaluation now can refer these patients to the center for further evaluation and treatment.

"Our center is designed for those who are suffering chronic symptoms, have risk factors for heart disease, have a family history of cardiac disease or simply are concerned enough about their heart that they want a thorough evaluation," says Gary Schaer, MD, director, Cardiac Catheterization Lab at Rush. "A unique benefit to patients will be rapid access to a Rush cardiologist and a complete, non-invasive work-up in one visit."

The new center is not intended for patients who need immediate care for chest pain. Patients who are suffering symptoms of a heart attack should call 911. Symptoms of a heart attack include chest discomfort such as pressure, squeezing or pain; upper body discomfort including pain in the arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach; shortness of breath; cold sweats; nausea; or lightheadedness.

Patients first meet with a cardiologist and receive a complete physical examination, electrocardiogram and blood work. If appropriate, a stress echocardiogram, heart scan, and a 64-slice computed tomography angiogram also may be obtained. Following the tests, the patient meets again with the same cardiologist to discuss findings and recommended treatment if needed.

Patients typically would need to make multiple visits for tests and consultations with special-

ists. The comprehensive nature of the clinic eliminates the maze of referrals and different testing sites that patients often encounter and provides simple access to a complete evaluation of heart disease risk and treatment if necessary.

The center is the newest outpatient component of Rush's collaborative approach and commitment to providing the highest quality of care for all levels of coronary artery disease. It expands on the Medical Center's designation as the first hospital in Chicago to receive accreditation as a chest pain center by the Society of Chest Pain Centers in January 2009.

"This outpatient center builds on the team approach we used to obtain chest pain center accreditation. It takes a coordinated effort from many individuals to provide the best care possible for this very common problem," says James Calvin, MD, chief, Section of Cardiology at Rush.



Gary Schaer, MD

For more information about the Rush Outpatient Chest Pain Center, please call (888) 352-RUSH (7874) or visit www.rush.edu/heart. The center is located in room 1159 of the Professional Office Building. •

Save the Dates

THE BENEFITS FAIR

Learn about your benefit options and get answers to your questions during the upcoming benefits fair, which will be held on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, Nov. 10 – Thursday, Nov. 12**
8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Rush cafeteria
- **Friday, Nov. 13**
4 a.m. to 7 a.m., Outside of Au Bon Pain, fourth floor of the Atrium Building

THE OCT. 22 RUSH BLOCK PARTY

Join us as we celebrate the progress we have made so far on the transformation of our campus. Enjoy a free hot dog lunch and music at the Rush Block Party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Look for more information soon on the Rush portal.

HELP CHOOSE RUSH'S NEW E-MAIL PROVIDER

Rush soon will be replacing its current e-mail system. To help us choose the system that will meet the needs of the Rush community best, we invite all students, employees and staff to attend all of the following presentations by our e-mail vendor candidates:

Lotus Notes

Oct. 7, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Armour Academic Center, room 540

Microsoft

Oct. 14, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Armour Academic Center, room 540

Google

Oct. 21, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Armour Academic Center, room 539

We look forward to receiving input from Rush e-mail users in our selection process.

NEWSROUNDS

December 2009
Volume 48, Number 6

Rush University Medical Center

RUSH COMMUNITY UNITES AT BLOCK PARTY



In late October, Rush hosted a block party to thank employees and community members for their support of the Rush Transformation. For a complete story about the celebration and more photos, please see pages 8 and 9 of this issue.

IN THIS ISSUE

Orthopedic Building Opens
Diversity Week

RUSH AGAIN RANKED AMONG THE BEST

For the third consecutive year, Rush University Medical Center has been ranked among the five top performing academic medical centers in the country in the nationwide University HealthSystem Consortium (UHC) Quality and Accountability Study. Only one other medical center besides Rush has ranked in the study's top five annually since 2007, and Rush is one of only two medical centers to rank among the top 10 every year since the study's inception in 2005.

"It is very satisfying to know that the UHC study has found that Rush has maintained consistently high levels of care," says Larry J. Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO. "These results are a tribute to the skill of everyone who works at Rush and their dedication to providing the best possible care. I thank all our employees and medical staff for their contributions to this achievement."

Based in Oakbrook, Ill., the UHC is an alliance of 103 academic medical centers and 219 member-affiliated hospitals that helps its members to improve clinical, financial and operational performance. Unlike other reviews of hospitals that take reputation into account, the UHC study is a completely objective evaluation based entirely on official data related to patient outcomes. The 2009 study evaluated 93 academic medical centers on the basis of mortality, effectiveness, patient safety, equity of care, efficiency and patient centeredness.

The study again awarded Rush a five-star rating, the highest possible, for its overall performance. For the fifth consecutive year, Rush received a perfect score of 100 percent in the equity of care category, which measures whether patient outcomes differ due to gender, race or socioeconomic status.

"This result indicates that we provide the same level of care to all our patients, regardless of background. We all can take great pride in maintaining that high standard of equality," Goodman says. •

FLU SEASON IS HERE: STAY HEALTHY AND PROTECT OUR PATIENTS

Flu season is here, and everyone at Rush has an important part to play in protecting our patients, our fellow employees and our families from catching the flu. It's particularly important this year that we all take precautions.

"Whether someone works directly with patients or not, we all are part of the same environment at Rush and can pass on viruses to each other through everyday contact," observes John Segreti, MD, hospital epidemiologist. "Each of us — employees, faculty, students, volunteers and contractors — needs to take steps to avoid getting sick and to prevent the flu from spreading from Rush staff to our patients."

Stay Healthy

In addition to being vaccinated, please take the following everyday precautions to stay healthy and keep Rush a healthy place for our patients:

- Keep your hands clean — wash your hands with soap or use hand sanitizer frequently, and make sure to clean your hands after coughing, sneezing or wiping your nose.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze (or use your upper sleeve if you don't have a tissue), and put used tissues in a wastebasket.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, and wash your hands afterwards if you do.

- If you have a cough, wear a face mask.
- If you have children living with you, teach them to follow these same steps and model this behavior for them.

If you have a fever and cough or sore throat, do not come to work or school, and call your doctor and/or Employee and Corporate Health Services (ECHS). If you get sick while at Rush, go to ECHS immediately.

The symptoms of regular seasonal flu and H1N1 are similar, and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. If you experience difficulty breathing; shortness of breath; pain or

continued on page 2

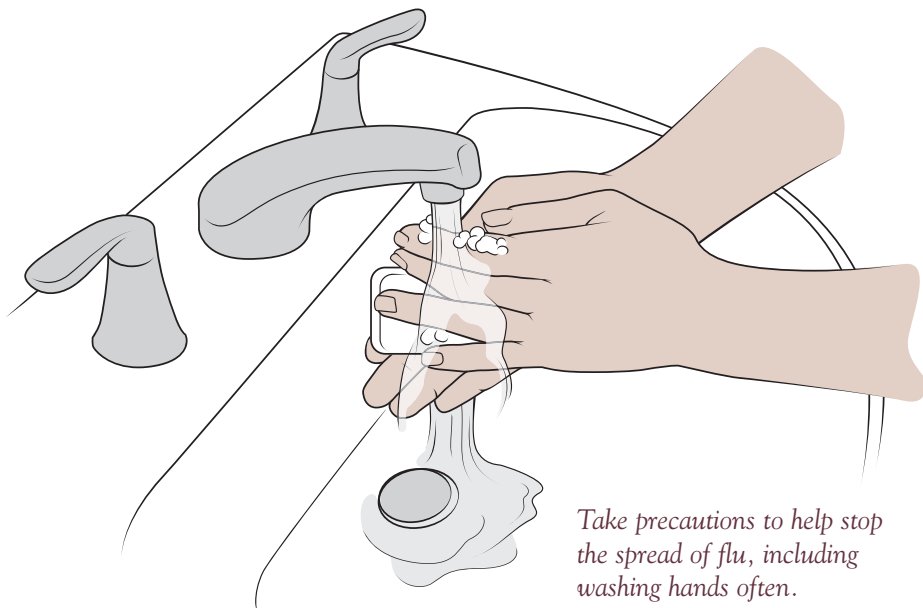
FLU SEASON continued from page 1

pressure in the chest; dizziness or vomiting, see a physician.

If you become sick with the flu, stay home except to seek medical care. When you leave home, wear a face mask. In general, avoid contact with other people as much as possible to keep from spreading your illness. With seasonal flu, people may be contagious from one day before they develop symptoms to up to seven days after they get sick.

Rush personnel also are encouraged to talk with their primary care physicians about flu prevention. If you do not already have a primary care physician and would like a referral to one at Rush, please call (888) 352-RUSH (7874).

"If we all just use some common sense and consideration, we can protect ourselves from getting sick and help ensure that we don't pass the flu on to each other and our patients," Segreti says. "I thank everyone for doing their part to keep everyone at Rush healthy." •



Take precautions to help stop the spread of flu, including washing hands often.

Rush Implements Access Control Plan to Control Spread of Flu Infection

To prevent flu from spreading on the Rush campus, in early November the Medical Center began screening visitors and patients for flu symptoms at the entrance of Rush buildings. Since children are at the highest risk of flu infection, no one under the age of 16 was allowed to visit hospitalized patients until flu rates subsided. These steps were based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The screenings have taken place at the following entrance locations:

- Fourth floor of the Atrium Building
- Fourth floor of the Armour Academic Center
- First floor of the Johnston R. Bowman Health Center
- First floor of Jelke

Patients coming to see a doctor who have flu-like symptoms have been asked to wear a mask. Visitors to patients who exhibit any flu-like symptoms have been asked to go home rather than potentially spread illness to their loved one or others.

"These changes have been an important precautionary measure that we needed to take to help prevent the spread of flu to our patients, visitors and the entire Rush community," says David Ansell, MD, Rush chief medical officer.

For more information, contact infection control on the Rush intranet at <http://iris.rush.edu/infectioncontrol/> or call ext. 2-3060.

NEW WORK-LIFE SERVICES BENEFIT OFFERED THROUGH THE EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Have you ever needed a dog sitter or babysitter, or wanted to know what educational and financial planning options were available to you and your family? Starting soon, Rush will provide a referral service through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for these and many other everyday issues.

Effective Jan. 1, 2010, the EAP will have a new online work-life services program to refer employees to a source for help or information. Currently, the EAP offers a free and confidential service for employees and their immediate family to help with personal problems such as depression, marital problems, alcohol and drug abuse, and more.

"There are many resources through EAP that will benefit employees, such as monthly Webinars. Each introductory Webinar focuses on a different work-life topic. Also, there are financial assistance tools available to employees such as financial counseling, debt management and a bankruptcy prevention unit," says Gary S. Cohen, co-president of Employee Resource Systems, Inc.

The new program includes an online chat feature for many work-life issues, such as financial planning, child care, parenting classes, senior housing options, legal assistance, home maintenance and repair, and much more. "This innovative feature is like a personalized online search engine — but instead of having to do the research, an EAP representative does it for you by presenting several options from which you may choose through a live chat function," says Lisa Yang, director of employee relations.

The feature is simple. Using the chat function on the EAP Web site, you can ask a question such as where is the nearest pet daycare center and receive a response within seconds, followed by resource information provided shortly thereafter.

To access the service, visit www.ers-eap.com. On the left task bar, you will see Work/Life Services Login. The login information is as follows:
Username: rush
Password: rush

Questions? Call (800) 292-2780 and someone will assist you.

All EAP services are confidential. For urgent issues, contact a counselor at (800) 292-2780 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Outside of business hours, the answering service will page an on-call counselor.

NEWSROUNDS

December 2009

Have a news item or story idea for *NewsRounds*? Contact the editor at:
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Please note: All physicians featured in this publication are on the medical staff of Rush University Medical Center. Some of the physicians are in private practice and, as independent practitioners, are not employees or agents of Rush University Medical Center.

NEW ORTHOPEDIC BUILDING OPENS

The new Orthopedic Building on the Rush campus opened for patient visits in mid-November.

“As our practice grew along with our research endeavors, we began planning long ago for a model new facility that would accommodate not only our faculty needs, but would be more convenient and accessible for our patients and their families when they come to our facilities,” says Gunnar Andersson, MD, chairman emeritus of the Rush Department of Orthopedic Surgery.

Construction of the new Orthopedic Building began in July 2007. Located at the corner of Ashland Avenue and Harrison Street, the five-story, \$75 million, 220,000-square-foot building is the largest facility devoted to orthopedics in the Midwest.

The building contains 60 examination rooms, six x-ray and imaging suites, an imaging center with CT and two MRI scanners, full-service physical and occupational therapy facilities, a conference and learning center, and first-floor stores, including shops offering medical equipment needed by orthopedic patients.

The building is home to the Rush Department of Orthopedic Surgery, including departmental offices and rooms for outpatient care. Orthopedic surgery will continue to be performed in the Atrium and Professional Buildings. The Orthopedic Building also houses the department’s research facilities, which include laboratories for human motion analysis, biomechanics, tribology (the study of friction, lubrication and wear) and implant retrieval.

“For the first time in the department’s history, orthopedic surgery’s administration, research

and educational activities will be in close proximity to our outpatient clinical operations,” says Joshua Jacobs, MD, chairperson of orthopedic surgery at Rush. “This is the best arrangement to promote collaboration between members of the department and will enhance our translational research efforts.”

Rush’s orthopedics program is consistently ranked among the best in the country and tops in Illinois in *U.S. News & World Report* magazine’s annual best hospitals issue. Orthopedics and sports medicine specialists from Rush are the team physicians for the Chicago Bulls and the Chicago White Sox. The Department of Orthopedic Surgery includes 45 clinical faculty members and 11 research faculty with 15 physicians in fellowship training programs and 24 physicians in residency training programs. More than 8,000 surgical cases were performed by the group last year.

Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush, a private practice medical group whose 38 physicians are on the



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to mark completion of the Orthopedic Building’s construction. Left to Right: Peter Butler, Rush executive vice president and chief operating officer; Richard Jaffe, chairman, Rush Board of Trustees; Gunnar Andersson, MD, chairman emeritus, Rush Department of Orthopedic Surgery; Joshua Jacobs, MD, chairperson of orthopedic surgery at Rush; Charles Bush-Joseph, MD, managing member, Midwest Orthopaedics at Rush; and Larry Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO.

Rush faculty, also now has its clinical facilities and physician offices in the building. Rush rheumatology clinical services will move to the fifth floor of the new Orthopedic Building in the future.

“The Orthopedic Building’s opening is a major step forward in transforming Rush’s campus to enhance our ability to provide the

best possible care for our patients and to put them at the center of everything we do,” says Larry Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO. “It’s very exciting to see patients receiving medical care in this brand-new, state-of-the-art facility, and it offers a preview of what we’ll see when our new hospital, the East Tower, opens in 2012.” •

ORTHOPEDIC BUILDING JOINS CARE FOR PATIENTS AND ENVIRONMENT

In addition to supporting excellence in patient care, the new Orthopedic Building has been designed to be environmentally efficient and responsible. Rush is seeking Silver Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification of the building. The U.S. Green Building Council, a nonprofit organization, awards LEED certification to environmentally responsible and efficient buildings. The following “green” features have been incorporated into the Orthopedic Building to conserve energy, water and materials, and to reduce waste:

- Half of the top of the building is a green roof covered with soil and plants, which will decrease storm water runoff by 25 percent and reduce the accumulation of solar heat.
- Recycled concrete, steel and wallboard were used extensively in the construction of the building, and construction materials came from manufacturers within 500 miles of Chicago to reduce fuel consumption and emissions during transportation.
- Low-flow plumbing fixtures are installed throughout the entire building to reduce water use.
- The paint and sealants used in the building are low in volatile organic compounds, which produce harmful gases.
- The building will participate in I CARE, I Recycle, the recycling program adopted throughout the Rush campus.



Every quarter, Rush employees are recognized for going above and beyond the call of duty for patients, families, visitors and co-workers. These employees are shining examples of the Rush I CARE values (innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect and excellence). Here are the winners of Rush's awards for the second quarter of fiscal year 2009.

Employee of the Quarter

Shira Miller, MS, child life specialist in the Department of Diagnostic Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, prepares children for radiology procedures, working to eliminate the fear and confusion they or their parents may have about these procedures. She explains the process ahead of time and uses relaxation or diversionary techniques to help the child through the procedure. Through her efforts and dedication, she has built a program that is invaluable in terms of patient and parent satisfaction. Technologists and radiologists have come to depend upon her ability to keep children calm and still, allowing them to produce quality images with minimal need for sedation during procedures. "Shira is an integral member of our radiology team. She collaborates with radiologists and technicians; is accountable for the child life activities within the department; and is respectful to all who are involved in the care process, while exemplifying excellence in the way she performs her job," says Bernie Peculis, administrative director, diagnostic radiology.

Manager of the Quarter

Barbara Mascitti, Women's Health Initiative (WHI) study manager, Department of Preventive Medicine, has shown steadfast commitment to both the department and WHI, a large clinical trial funded by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The WHI is a research program that addresses the most common causes of death, disability and poor quality of life in postmenopausal women — cardiovascular disease, cancer and osteoporosis. Over the years, she has worked hard to maintain the integrity of the study, ensure high-quality treatment of the study participants, and take care of

her team. The NIH awarded her and her staff performance awards in 2006 and again in 2008 for their outstanding work. Michelle Wayman, grants specialist in the Department of Preventive Medicine, commends Mascitti on her character: "I know I can count on her as a colleague, for support; as a manager, for sound advice; and after all these years of working together, as a friend, to bring a smile to my face after a particularly tough day in the office. She is a leader, a hard worker, an honest and caring person, and has a desire to excel — qualities I believe we all strive for in our professional and personal lives."

Team of the Quarter

The 8 South Atrium staff nurses and consultants team cares for adult patients with complex medical/oncology needs and maintains their commitment to excellence even in the most challenging situations. Members of the team have been nominated for nursing excellence awards, which illustrates their ongoing commitment to Rush's I CARE values. The team's dedication is evident in their care for a recent patient who was in a tremendous amount of pain and had multiple medical conditions. "The experienced team never gave up on him or stopped advocating for him, even when there was uncertainty regarding the possible cause of his pain," says Michelle Alexander, MN, RN, clinical nurse specialist, medical-surgical nursing, and instructor, adult health and gerontological nursing.

Patient Satisfaction "Star"

Every quarter, an employee whose name appears in two or more favorable patient evaluations is awarded the patient satisfaction "star" award. This quarter, five stars were honored: Karen Hanley, RN, emergency medicine; Evelyn Senewo, RN, adult inpatient; Princess Williams, inpatient pediatrics, 5 Kellogg; Regina McGee, customer service representative, University Family Physicians; and Lois Means, RN, hematology/oncology. Their evaluations included the following patient comments:

- "My nurse Karen was great. She was professional, caring and easy-going. She answered all my questions, and I felt very comfortable with her. Karen was exceptional. She had a good bedside manner, and that is very important to me."



Shira Miller



Barbara Mascitti



The 8 South Atrium Staff Nurses and Consultants Team (left to right): Kimberly Patyk, RN; Bridget Jennings, RN; Heather Jackert, RN; Karen Stratton, RN; Lisa Prytula, MA, RN, unit director. Not pictured: Meagan Grant, RN; Elisabeth Hajduk, RN; Erica Hickey, RN; Danuta Lewis, RN; Danuta Mankiewicz, RN; Sarah Schmidt, RN.

- "Evelyn went above and beyond her duties to make sure my discharge occurred in a timely manner so I could attend my son's graduation. She even took me by wheelchair to my car."
- "After I took hold of my daughter, she soiled my clothes three times. Princess washed those clothes for me. I was very thankful for clean clothes — otherwise they would have been ruined."
- "Regina is always smiling on the telephone when I call!"
- "Nurse Lois goes above and beyond her job description. Besides being very professional, she is sensitive and caring to each patient's individual needs and actually listens to me when I speak. Due to her and the doctor, my experience with lymphoma was a lot easier to cope with. Please take the time to praise her."

Carol Stege Award for Environmental Services

Gary Peacock, environmental specialist, Environmental Services, has worked at Rush for more than five years and has received numerous Wow awards over the last six months. He takes initiative and helps engage department members in the Rush mission and values. Denise Wiley, assistant director of environmental services, says "Gary always has a 'can do' attitude. I look forward to working with him for many years to come."

Rush Values Award Winners

Contracts can be lengthy and challenging to read. Stephanie Genuardi Arcuri, assistant general counsel, Office of Legal Affairs, recently was involved in the process of negotiating critical contracts with two other institutions and the Department of Pediatrics. These contracts were complex and involved many levels of bureaucracy, each of which demanded great attention to detail. The involvement of the two other institutions

2nd Quarter Employee Awards



Karen Hanley, RN



Evelyn Senewo, RN



Princess Williams



Regina McGee



Lois Means, RN



Gary Peacock

increased the complexity of her work. "Stephanie has great knowledge, wisdom and experience in working with this process. She has a constructive spirit and helped move these documents along in a very short period of time — days — in spite of having other duties. She also has great knowledge of who are the important stakeholders at Rush," says William Hayden, MD, associate chairperson of pediatrics and program director, pediatric critical care. •

To nominate someone for a quarterly award, call Clare Quinn at ext. 2-3641.



Stephanie Genuardi Arcuri

RU CARING HELPS COMMUNITY KIDS GET BACK TO SCHOOL

RU Caring, Rush University's student volunteer organization, hosted its fifth annual Back to School Fair in partnership with second ward alderman Bob Fioretti in August to help kids on Chicago's West Side prepare for the start of the school year. According to Sharon Gates, MA, director, Office of Community and Global Health and interim director, multicultural student affairs for Rush University, approximately 250 RU Caring volunteers assisted at Fosco Park Community Center on the near West side on Aug. 22. At the event, more than 400 children were triaged, 300 received physical exams and 230 were screened for immunizations. Every child who received services got a backpack filled with donated school supplies from the Rush community.

"RU Caring brings together Rush students from all disciplines of Rush University to help the community while providing students with opportunities to develop and hone their clinical, interpersonal and leadership skills," Gates says. "Our volunteers all were outstanding and helped make this event a success."



RU Caring volunteer Priyam Tripathi explains to a girl and boy how to properly wash their hands.



RU Caring volunteer Spencer Kirk takes a young girl through an eye exam.

RUSH CELEBRATES AND GIVES THANKS AT BLOCK PARTY

Rush employees, students and staff gathered on Oct. 22 in the driveway of the new Orthopedic Building to celebrate the progress of the Medical Center's transformation. The event was held to thank employees and members from our local community for supporting this historic campus renovation.

Despite uncooperative weather, the mood was festive. Guests enjoyed free hot dog lunches and music by the Rush/Cook County Gospel Choir, the Noble Street College Prep Choir and the Night Knights Band. Bennie the Bull and Southpaw, the mascots of the Chicago Bulls and Chicago White Sox, clowned with the guests, who also had the opportunity to tour Rush's new central energy plant.

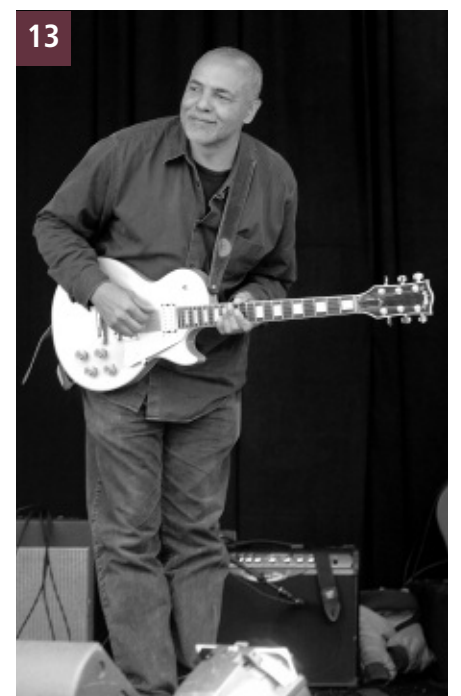
Several community leaders attended and spoke at the event, including Alderman Robert Fioretti, 2nd ward, Alderman Walter Burnett, 27th ward, and State Representative Ken Dunkin, 5th District. Larry Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO, thanked Rush's neighbors and everyone at the event for their cooperation during the ongoing construction of Rush's new facilities.

Thanks to everyone who attended, and to the following groups for their hard work in making the celebration a big success: The Block Party Committee; Environmental Services; the Green Team; Medical Center Engineering; the Office of Transformation; the Rush Archives; the Rush/Cook County Gospel Choir; the Rush Photo Group; Rush Media Services; and the departments of employee and corporate health, food and nutrition services, government affairs, human resources and marketing and communications.

For more information on Rush's Transformation, please visit the Rush Transformation Web site at www.rush.edu/transformation.



- 1) Left to right: Jennifer Black, administrative assistant, women's and children's nursing; LaShanna Kimmons and Jameca Benjamin-Johnson, breastfeeding peer counselors, Rush Mothers' Milk Club; and Pamela Napier, Breastfeeding & Beyond Boutique manager and administrative assistant, Women and Children's Resource Center
- 2) Alderman Robert Fioretti
- 3) State Representative Ken Dunkin
- 4) Left to right: Christopher Crank, PharmD, MHSM, clinical specialist, infectious diseases; Sarah Hopps, PharmD, pharmacy resident; and Chad Richardson, pharmacy resident
- 5) Sharon Gates, MA, director of the Office of Community and Global Health and interim director of Multicultural Student Affairs, with Terry Peterson, vice president for government affairs
- 6) Alderman Walter Burnett and his wife Darlena Williams-Burnett, chief deputy for the Cook County Recorder of Deeds, (standing) with former Chicago Bull Bob Love (seated)



7) The Rush/Cook County Gospel Choir

8) Left to right: Bob Clapp, senior vice president for hospital affairs and executive director of Rush University hospitals; Mick Zdeblick, vice president, Office of Transformation; Ray LaBrec, Power/Jacobs; and Peter Butler, Rush executive vice president and chief operating officer

9) Legendary Chicago radio announcer Herb Kent

10) Benny the Bull with Glydan Hoffman, pediatric nurse assistant, New Life Family Center (left), and other members of the Rush community

11) Southpaw clowns with Leslie Dwyer, lead volunteer coordinator, hospital guest relations (forefront), as Carola Horkavay, campus security, looks on (left)

12 and 13) Members of the Night Knights Band perform

RUSH EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO A DIVERSE CULTURE

Rush honored three employees for their exemplary leadership and initiative in supporting diversity at the Medical Center during Diversity Week at Rush, Oct. 26 through 30.

Sharon D. Gates, MA, director, Office of Community and Global Health and interim director of multicultural student affairs, was chosen to be the inaugural recipient of the new Rush Diversity Leadership Award. Sarah H. Ailey, PhD, RNC, associate professor, Department of Community, Systems and Mental Health Nursing, and Robyn Hart, MEd, director, Child Life Services, received this year's Eugene J-MA Thonar, PhD, Award.

The new Rush Diversity Leadership Award honors employees who have made significant contributions to furthering Rush's progress toward its mission of enhancing excellence in patient care, education, research and community service for the diverse communities of the Chicago area.

"Sharon embodies Rush's diversity commitment and is richly deserving to be the first recipient of the Rush Diversity Leadership Award," says Bradley Hinrichs, administrative vice president of transformation.

Gates created the hugely successful RU Caring Back to School Fair, which provides hundreds of Chicago children

with free physical examinations, immunizations and school supplies (see related story and photos on page 5). She also helped in the creation of a wellness education program for senior citizens in Chinatown. She strengthened Rush's connections with the Hispanic community by reaching out to the Mexican Consulate and Spanish language radio stations. She continually encourages Rush to be a model of diversity in her work with Rush trustees; attending physicians; veteran faculty; community leaders including senators and aldermen; for-profit and not-for-profit CEOs; former, current and prospective students; and Rush employees at every level.

"Her commitment to the ideals of inclusion and her enthusiastic efforts to further Rush's progress toward being an inclusive medical center make her truly deserving of this award," says Eugene Thonar, PhD, George W. Stuppy, MD, Professor of Arthritis.

The award in Thonar's name, now in its 17th year, is given each year to a person in the Medical Center community — a staff member, faculty, student or volunteer — who has made outstanding contributions to Rush that further its commitment to turning disability into possibility.



Left to right: Sarah H. Ailey, PhD, RNC, associate professor, Department of Community, Systems and Mental Health Nursing, and Robyn Hart, MEd, director, Child Life Services, received this year's Eugene J-MA Thonar, PhD, Award from Larry Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO.

Ailey and Hart were honored with the Thonar award for their efforts in establishing an extensive program to help Rush better meet the needs of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. To support this initiative, they provided numerous staff training programs, consultation services, a pre-hospitalization program for patients and their caretakers, and a helpline for caretakers and their families. They organized and worked with the Adults With Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Committee to create new educational tools to increase Rush staff capabilities to serve and treat adults with these disabilities.

Ailey also has written a play about a person with developmental disabilities, entitled "Of Jewels and Dreams," which was performed at Rush by actors from Chicago's Victory Gardens

Theater during Diversity Week. Other Diversity Week activities included presentations and discussions about diversity, respect and the role they play in how the Rush community works together and provide care for patients.

At Rush, respect for each other means recognizing, valuing and enabling the contributions of each employee and creating a work environment where differences are accepted and valued. That respect leads to compassionate care for the many patients who come to the Medical Center every day. Diversity Week is a celebration of these contributions and differences. •

For more diversity week coverage, see the special insert in this issue of NewsRounds.

NEW ROBOT VEHICLES WILL HELP KEEP THINGS MOVING AT RUSH



An automated guided vehicle making a delivery.

They look like a treadmill. They can sound like a British butler. And soon, they'll be rolling through a tunnel underneath the Medical Center campus, transporting linens, supplies, food and trash.

Rush has acquired a fleet of 14 automated guided vehicles (AGVs), a type of robot used to move supply carts. The AGVs will haul the carts back and forth from the new Rush loading dock, located in the lower level of the

new Orthopedic Building, to a central distribution point underneath the site of the new East Tower. The AGVs have been computer-programmed to travel along a two-and-a-half block long tunnel that has been created between the buildings.

"The carts are placed in a kind of parking space; an employee presses a button that calls for an AGV and the AGV comes to that location, slides underneath the cart, picks up the cart and takes it to wherever it's supposed to go," explains Eileen Dwyer,

RN, MSN, director, Office of Transformation.

The East Tower distribution point serves as the drop-off and pick-up location for materials moving in and out of the Atrium, Pavilion and Kellogg buildings. Rush employees will load and unload the carts at each end of the AGVs' travel path.

"The AGVs will not replace current members of our very capable staff. We still need people to move carts on and off the AGVs, and there will be even more to do once the East Tower opens." Dwyer says.

RUSH PARTICIPATES IN STUDY TO DETECT LUNG CANCER EARLY

Rush is part of an international effort to evaluate the effectiveness of a screening test that may provide early detection of lung cancer. Known as the International Early Lung Cancer Action Project, the collaboration brings together 48 major academic medical centers in nine countries.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the United States and kills more than 160,000 people in the U.S. each year — more than breast, prostate and colon cancer combined. The fatality rate is high in part because, unlike these other cancers, there currently are no tools to diagnose lung cancer early enough to allow for surgical removal of the tumor.

Physicians at Rush will study the use of spiral computerized tomography (CT) scanning to detect tiny nodules (clusters of cells) in the lungs that possibly could be cancer in its earliest stages. CT scans can detect tumors that are smaller than a pea, and previous research has shown these scans can detect lung cancer growths that are often not visible on a chest x-ray. By the time lung tumors are large enough to be viewed on a chest x-ray, the cancer often has advanced too far to be cured.

Preliminary studies have shown that low-dose CT screening of a high-risk population, such as people who smoke, can help reduce lung cancer deaths to a degree that's similar to what mammography screening has done to reduce deaths from breast cancer. The technology is not yet a U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved tool for lung cancer screening, but it has proven to be a potent tool for visualizing tumors.

"CT technology may help cut down on the number of lung cancer deaths by allowing physicians to catch the disease early and surgically remove the lesions before they grow and spread through the body," says Philip Bonomi, MD, director of the Division of Hematology and Oncology. "This test could possibly be an important tool in fighting lung cancer, which has a dismal five-year survival rate of only 15 percent."

Rush researchers are trying to determine if CT screening can be effective for individuals with chronic obstructive lung disease (COPD), the people at highest risk of developing lung cancer. COPD is a disorder that usually indicates a person is particularly affected by the damaging effects of cigarette smoke.



Mark Yoder, MD, lead investigator of the International Early Lung Cancer Action Project study at Rush and assistant professor of pulmonary and critical care, and Palmi Shah, MD, the study radiologist, view a CT screening.

"This study could help determine possible guidelines for who should get screened and when they should get screened," says Mark Yoder, MD, the lead investigator of the study and assistant professor of pulmonary and critical care at Rush. "We want to find the best way to manage early lung cancer."

The study will enroll 100 participants at Rush who are at risk for lung cancer due to a history of smoking. Participants will receive a chest CT screening and lung function tests free of charge. If the study radiologist, Palmi Shah, MD, detects and abnormal nodule on the CT scan, the multidisciplinary lung cancer screening team will determine the appropriate next step. Most often, it will be a repeat CT scan in three to 12 months. In very rare cases, a sample of the nodule will be obtained. Participants who

are diagnosed with cancer will be referred to a specialist for treatment.

The researchers will track participants over a period of 10 years to see which of them develop cancer, and will compare CT results with cancer diagnosis to see if the CT screenings were effective in detecting cancer in an early stage.

"Stage one is the only stage at which cure by surgery is highly likely," Yoder says. "If we determine that CT screenings can help us diagnose persons at risk during that stage, it could enable us to save a lot of people's lives." •

Rush is seeking participants for the study who are current or former smokers and who are 50 years of age or older. For more information about the study, please contact Josephine Volgi, study coordinator, at ext. 3-2741 or Josephine_Volgi@rush.edu.

The materials that are moved by the AGV system include cleaning supplies, clean and soiled linens, regulated medical waste and trash. When the East Tower opens in 2012, patient food trays also will be moved using the AGV system.

The AGVs are programmed to notify employees when a delivery has arrived. "The staff person responsible for the delivery to the final destination will have a pager or some other device allowing for direct communication with the AGV system," Dwyer says.

The AGVs also have an infrared sensor that can sense if something is in their path, which will cause them to stop. If someone is standing in front of an AGV, it politely will ask the person to step aside. The AGV voice can be programmed to use a number of different accents. "They really do seem like people," Dwyer says.

The AGVs can run up to 22 hours without recharging, which they'll do automatically at recharging stations along their travel path. Medical

Center Engineering will be responsible for the maintenance of the AGVs and will be called if one breaks down in route.

Rush currently is conducting trial runs of the AGVs and training the supply chain and environmental service staff who will be responsible for loading and unloading carts onto the AGVs.

The implementation of the AGVs will accommodate the relocation of the loading dock from underneath the Atrium Building to the lower level of

the Orthopedic Building — a change that is needed in order to clear traffic routes to the new hospital building.

"We're going to have a lot more supplies, linens, everything moving in and out of the Medical Center once the new hospital building opens," continues Dwyer, who expects the fleet will increase to 22 AGVs at that time. "The AGVs will help us keep things moving and make sure everyone keeps getting what they need, when they need it." •

BREATHING CLASSROOM — THE NEW RUSH UNIVERSITY RESPIRATORY CARE PROGRAM

Breathing easier: It's the goal of the field of respiratory care. Rush is preparing people to meet the growing need for this kind of treatment and helping advance the field by offering a new degree program in respiratory care. Part of the College of Health Sciences at Rush University, the respiratory care program began classes in September.

Respiratory care is one of the allied health professions and focuses on treating breathing abnormalities in patients with conditions such as asthma, bronchitis and chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), which damages or inflames the lungs, making it hard to breathe. "It can be everything from delivering oxygen and aerosol treatment to mechanical ventilation, anything that would help with breathing," says David Vines, MHS, acting chairperson and associate professor of respiratory care. "We also do a lot of work treating trauma victims with an injury that affects their airway, and we do testing to see how lungs are functioning and what medications would help patients breath better."

The new Rush program is the only one in the country to offer a Master of Science (MS) degree in respiratory care (three or four other universities offer Master's of Health Science degrees with concentrations in

respiratory care). It also offers a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree for students who have completed two years of undergraduate work. Students at both levels will take some of the same classes together, but MS students will take additional classes, receive more coursework and have greater research responsibilities.

The program will accept a total of 24 students a year and is fully enrolled for the current academic year. Graduate students make up 90 percent of the enrollment, including 11 Rush employees who are enrolled in the program part-time. Students who earn their BS degrees will be positioned to become clinical leaders, and those who receive MS degrees will be prepared to teach in undergraduate programs and conduct research.

"We have a lot of programs in Chicago and throughout the entire country that need more instructors," Vines says. "There's also so much research that needs to be done to advance the practice and offer the best in respiratory care. We're going to need respiratory therapists who have training in how to collect data so they can run disease management programs for COPD and asthma."

Vines came to Rush this summer from the University of Texas (UT) Health Science Center in San Antonio, where



David Vines, MHS, acting chairperson and associate professor of respiratory care, speaks to a class in the new program.

he was program director and interim chairperson of the Department of Respiratory Care.

"The environment at Rush provides a unique opportunity," he says, noting that the UT program wasn't affiliated with a hospital. "Students will be collecting data in the intensive care unit. They can work in interdisciplinary teams with physicians and nurses and other allied health professionals to conduct these research projects and find ways to improve care."

Rush Respiratory Therapists Answer the Call

The demand for respiratory therapists is growing as the population of the United States ages, resulting in an increase in the diagnosis of pulmonary disorders. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics has projected that the number of respiratory therapists needed in the country will increase by 22.6 percent between 2006 and 2016.

Toni M. Podgorak, an advanced respiratory practitioner in neonatal pediatrics

at Rush, wants to train people to fill some of those positions. Podgorak is enrolled in the master's degree program and hopes to teach in a bachelor's degree respiratory care program after she completes her degree. "I want to teach new people entering respiratory care so we have a growing field," she says.

Like Podgorak, Brenda Calvin is an advanced care practitioner in neonatal pediatrics who has enrolled in the MS program. Calvin, who has spent 29 of her 33 years in respiratory care at Rush, was drawn to the field when her son was hospitalized with severe asthma. She's taught in the respiratory care program at Olive Harvey College in Chicago and would like to continue teaching.

She's also interested in conducting research to help the field continue to grow. "When I first got into the respiratory care field, it was basically providing treatments with oxygen tanks. Now it's advanced to working with life-support machines," she says. "I want to see where it's going, and I'd like to be a part of it." •

TWO CARDIOLOGY PHYSICIAN GROUPS AT RUSH MERGE

University Cardiologists and Associates in Cardiology, two physician practices at Rush, merged on Sept. 1. Retaining the University Cardiologists name, the practice provides patients the highest quality of heart care, including the latest technology and access to innovative treatment options through clinical trials. It offers advanced care and expertise in pediatric and adult congenital heart disease, women's heart health, advanced heart failure, heart transplant and mechanical circulatory support, arrhythmias, heart attack and hypertension.

"Both practices provided cardiology services with specialized services such as heart transplantation," says Neal Ruggie, MD, cardiologist. "The merged practice will maximize the skill sets of the

respective practices to enhance patient care, education and research."

"We are proud of the level of quality both practices have achieved," says James Calvin, MD, director of Section of Cardiology at Rush and medical director of University Cardiologists. "We expect this merger will aid in our continuing efforts to provide the best, latest, and most innovative care in cardiovascular medicine in Chicago."

The University Cardiologists clinic will be located in newly renovated space in suite 1159 of the Professional Office Building, 1725 W. Harrison Street. For more information, call ext. 2-5020, or visit www.rush.edu/heart.



James Calvin, MD

RUSH PEOPLE

APPOINTMENTS

Rush University has chosen **Regina Chen, MS**, as the director of the physician assistant (PA) studies program, pending approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Most recently, Chen served as academic coordinator and assistant program director of the PA program at Rosalind Franklin University in North Chicago. She began teaching at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and was the academic coordinator at Mercy College in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. In 1997 she received the award of outstanding PA faculty from the Nova Southeastern University class of 1998. Chen's clinical background includes a unique combination of traditional Asian methods along with modern western practice. She is dually licensed as a PA and as an acupuncturist in Illinois, and holds national certification as a PA and in acupuncture and Chinese herbology.

Rush University has appointed **David L. Vines, MHS, RRT**, as the director and acting chairperson for the new Department of Respiratory Care in the College of Health Sciences (See related story, opposite page.) Prior to joining Rush, Vines served as an associate professor and interim chairperson/program director for the Department of Respiratory Care at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, where he also helped create and direct a comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facility. In addition to directing the new respiratory care program at Rush, he will hold operational responsibilities related to the clinical respiratory therapy services at the Medical Center. His areas of expertise include the critical care of adults, children and neonates and mechanical ventilation.

KUDOS

In September, **Stevan E. Hobfoll, PhD**, the Judd and Marjorie Weinberg Presidential Professor and Chair, Department of Behavioral Sciences, presented the opening keynote address at a conference in Israel titled, "The Psycho-Social Aftermaths of Terror Attacks – Theoretical and Therapeutic Perspectives." Hobfoll spoke on "War and Terrorism's Impact on the Self and Society: Facing Our Vulnerability and Our Resiliency," based on his research, which is supported by the National Institute of Health. The conference was supported by the Chicago area Jewish National Fund in support of the treatment of victims of terrorism in Israel.

Michael S. Huckman, MD, professor of radiology, director of neuroradiology, presented at several lectures and workshops in Asia this past spring. He spoke on the "Diagnosis of Dementing Illnesses" and the "Radiologic Evaluation of Patients With Headache." Huckman spoke before the Korean Society of Radiology in Seoul and the Philippine Radiological Society in Manila as part of the STAR Continuing Education Program. He also spoke at the Hong Kong College of Radiologists and received the distinguished speaker's medal from the group.

Wrenetha Julion, PhD, RN, associate professor, Rush University College of Nursing, participated in the "White House Community Round Table and Town Hall Meeting on Responsible Fatherhood and Healthy Families" in August at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The event included fatherhood researchers, practitioners and experts who discussed the challenges faced by fathers and fatherhood programs in the Chicago area. The event also featured senior White House and administration staff, as well as community leaders.

Patricia McCarthy, PhD, professor of audiology, Department of Communications Disorders and Sciences, was an invited speaker at the Third International Workshop on Advances in Audiology at the University of Salamanca in Salamanca, Spain. This was her second time invited to speak at this workshop. She presented "Communication Enhancement in Adults With Hearing Loss: Issues in Adult Rehabilitation."

Betsy Parrino, BSN, RN, 7 South Atrium, and **Robyn Flanders, ANP**, neurosurgery, were the first nurses at Rush to receive the DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses. This award is part of the DAISY (Diseases Attacking the Immune System) Foundation's program to recognize the "superhuman efforts nurses provide every day." This foundation was founded by the family of a patient who died from complications of idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, which is a condition caused by having a low platelet count. Four times a year, the Professional Nursing Staff recognition committee will select a nurse to receive the DAISY Award. The committee selects the nurse based on nominations submitted by staff, visitors and patients.

Chicago United has chosen Terry Peterson, vice president for government affairs, and Rush Trustee Sue Gin to its 2009 edition of Business Leaders of Color. They are among



Regina Chen, MS



Stevan E. Hobfoll, PhD



Michael S. Huckman, MD



Betsy Parrino, BSN, RN



Terry Peterson

the 46 individuals out of more than 160 nominated to be chosen for the organization's bi-annual publication and join such past honorees as First Lady Michelle Obama and Ralph Alvarez, the president and CEO of McDonald's Corp. Chicago United is a local business advocacy organization.

Avik Roy, PhD, neuroscience, received the John E. Trufant Award for Excellence in Research during Rush University's 2009 commencement ceremonies in June.

Jay Vachhani, a doctor of audiology student, received the Audiology Foundation of America's "Outstanding AuD Student Scholarship for 2009." Vachhani received \$4,500 for the scholarship and was chosen from a group of nominees from four-year audiology programs around the country. This scholarship was established to recognize and support the "best and brightest" audiology students.

The American Association of Nurse Anesthetists honored **Judith Wiley, DNP, CRNA**, associate director, nurse anesthesia program, Rush University College of Nursing, with its Clinical Instructor of the Year Award. Wiley received the award in August for her contribution to nurse anesthesia and the advancement of educational standards.

In July, the Joint Commission again awarded Rush Oak Park Hospital's (ROPH) inpatient diabetes management program its Gold Seal of Approval for health care quality. ROPH is one of seven hospitals in the country and the only one in Illinois to have earned certification for advanced inpatient diabetes. In 2007, ROPH became the second hospital in the country to earn this Joint Commission certification after voluntarily pursuing the evaluation to enhance patient safety and quality of care. The Joint Commission performs evaluations every two years. •



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE, JAN. 18

Rush University students have organized a day of volunteer service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, Jan. 18. Members of the Rush community are invited to join the students in volunteering at any of the following service projects planned for the day:

James R. Jordan Boys and Girls Club and Family Life Center — Renovation of the science room to provide a creative and educational atmosphere that will encourage minority children to succeed in math and science, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., 2102 W. Monroe St.

Franciscan House of Mary and Joseph — Cooking and serving breakfast for approximately 250 homeless people who have spent the night at the center, 4 a.m. to 7 a.m., 1645 W. LeMoynes Street.

Rush University Veterans Fair — A variety of fun activities will help military personnel and their families re-assimilate and adjust to civilian life, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Suite 994, Armour Academic Center.

To sign up to volunteer, please visit <http://sites.google.com/site/rushdayofservice>. For more information, please e-mail Rush.MLKDay@gmail.com or contact Sharon Gates at ext. 2-3670.

WOMEN'S WELLNESS — HOW TO IMPROVE PELVIC FITNESS

Rush's Program for Abdominal and Pelvic Health will offer a seven-week program for female participants who would like to improve their pelvic fitness. The program begins on Jan. 5 and will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. in room 994 of the Armour Academic Center. Participants will receive personalized instruction from trained professionals that will guide each participant to actively cue correct muscles in the pelvic region. A brief educational discussion follows the one-hour workout to provide women with nutritional, behavioral, and lifestyle information to improve their pelvic health and wellness. The program is a comprehensive pelvic fitness and wellness program designed by leading experts in the fields of urogynecology, physical therapy and fitness. The fee for the program is \$125. For more information contact Mary Patricia Kraus at ext. 2-7274 or mary_p_kraus@rush.edu.

FIGHT COLON CANCER WITH THE CHICAGO BULLS

Tickets are available for the Chicago Bulls basketball game against the Miami Heat at the United Center on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each. All the proceeds will benefit the Sandra Rosenberg Registry for Hereditary and Familial Colon Cancer. For more information contact Mary Patricia Kraus at ext. 2-7274 or mary_p_kraus@rush.edu.

SAVE THE DATE — THE RUSH HOLIDAY PARTY IS DEC. 15

The holidays will be here before you know it, so mark your calendars for Rush's holiday party, which takes place on Dec. 15. All Rush employees, students and volunteers are invited to celebrate the season with friends and co-workers. The breakfast meal will take place from 6:30 to 9:30 a.m.; the lunch/dinner meal will take place from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Both seatings take place in the Rush cafeteria. Keep an eye out for more details, including the menu.

THE RUSH VALUES DISCUSSION CONTINUES — EXCELLENCE THE FOCUS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER EVENTS

Throughout 2009, the Department of Employee and Organizational Development has hosted a series of conversations, activities and celebrations to help employees better understand the Medical Center's values of innovation, collaboration, accountability, respect and excellence and how we all can incorporate them into our jobs each day.

Respect was the value highlighted in September and October. Events focusing on respect included a discussion between employees and Larry Goodman, MD, Rush president and CEO; a workshop for employees and a class for managers; and conversations during which employees could discuss respect, including one linked with National Disability Awareness Month in October. In conjunction with Rush Diversity Week, Oct. 26 to 30, Rush employees also were able to celebrate diversity and respect by acting out situations that can arise when working with others during a gathering titled "Respect in Action."

Excellence — Making Rush Even Better

Rounding out the values series for 2009 is excellence, which is the focus in November and December. One way Rush is fostering excellence is with the recently completed I CARE / Count all-employee survey. HR Solutions, the vendor for the I CARE / Count survey, will be conducting training sessions for managers so they will be prepared to address issues and concerns emerging from the survey's results. Managers will create action plans based on their survey results. "The entire process is constructive and builds on strengths," says Jane Grady, PhD, assistant vice president of human resources.

Rush employees also can work toward excellence in their jobs by using PERFORM, Rush's performance management system. Employees can learn how

to track their own progress toward greater excellence by taking a quick online lesson about how to use the performance journal function in PERFORM. When a manager and all of his or her employees complete this online lesson and use the performance journal, their department will be entered into a raffle for a pizza party. Drawings for the pizza party will be held weekly through Dec. 11.

Employee and organizational development also is offering several workshops of interest in November and December that will support employee and manager efforts toward building excellence. There are two classes just for managers: Creating Departmental Standards was on Nov. 19 and Accelerated Management Skills begins Nov. 30.

Any Rush employee can register for the following class using LeapOnline:

- Dec. 18, "A Conversation About Excellence"

Looking Ahead

In January and February, Rush will celebrate employee engagement, building on the I CARE / Count survey results and related action planning. Look for information about reading materials, speakers, goal training and more. March and April will resume the values series with innovation, followed by collaboration (May and June), accountability (July and August), respect (September and October) and excellence (November and December).

"Providing employees with opportunities to discuss the I CARE values and relate what they mean helps us all in incorporating them into our jobs on a daily basis," Grady explains. "The main goal is how to apply the values to providing the best possible care for our patients while making Rush an even better place to work for our employees."